Ine Guardiai

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Watching Bob Dole die

Iwenty-four hours with America's biggest loser



omeback

Context

ly Ginnell makes Cézanne and Zola Two childhoods in Provence



Outlook page 13

Outlook page 19

Campaign of fear hits Ashdown

Threats against Lib Dem leader erupt into arson

URVEILLANCE on paign of threats which destroyed his car.

Police last night arrested ree men, aged 18, 19 and 21, in connection with the attack. All three are from Yeovil, in The attack took place at the Liberal Democrat leader's home in the Somerset village of Norton sub Hamdon. It emerged before the arrests

ere made that anonymous dephone threats had been made to Mr Ashdown's prop-erty and London office in the Police chiefs had discussed with the Yeovil MP measures to tighten security. Surveil-

lance on his property had been quietly increased.

Mr Ashdown had himself taken a threatening call from a man in December, There were no threats to his life, but the calls were being taken very seriously and the MP's

Mr Asadown has played a much publicised role in exposing a spate of racist attacks on the tiny ethnic community in Yeovil, which is the third largest town in Somerset. But police yesterday were playing down suggestions that the "despicable" attack which destroyed the attack which destroyed the MP's H-registered Vauxhall

Last month Mr Ashdown's car window was smashed with a stone in what is believed to have been a linked attack. Mr Allen said: "There is no

evidence of a racial motive whatsoever. It is impossible to say what the motive was, but we are keeping an open mind."

for protection, Mr Allen said. But the superintendent added: "It is something I am concerned about. We have spoken about that and that

will be ongoing."
Shrugging off the latest incident, Mr Ashdown insisted on business as usual yester-day afternoon when he honoured a commitment to visit a local junior school.



obviously we were shaken and now I am just determined In December, during a late

town with a local priest on behalf of the newly formed Part-Harassment in Somerset, a knife was allegedly drawn against the MP only yards from his constituency offices. At its launch, the campaign group said: "We note with anger that this national evil of racism exists in our community and has been perpetrated by people in our

"We do not believe that Yeovil is worse than other towns in this respect. But we know that this is an evil that vigorously."

It called on the community

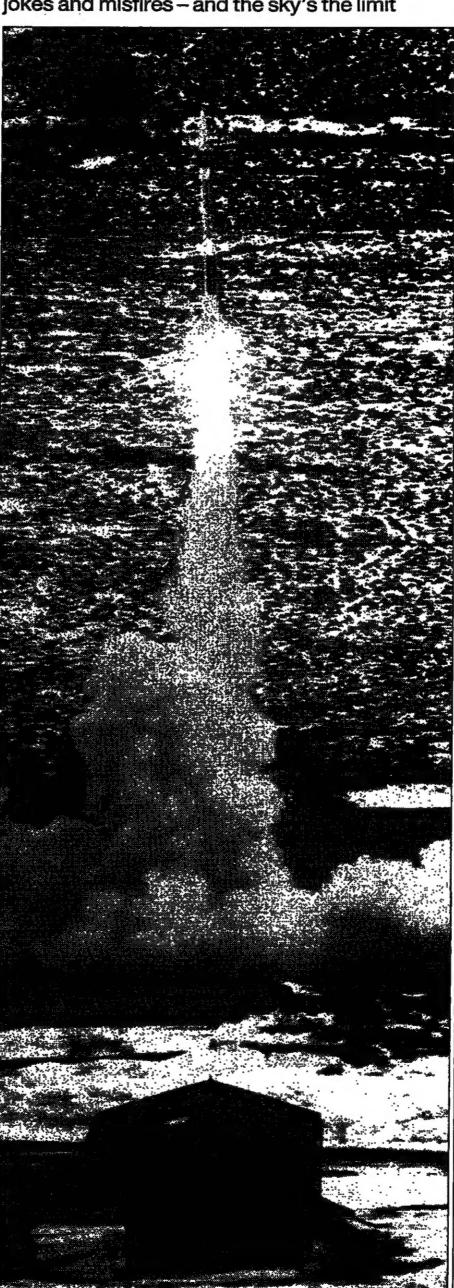
called upon "the people of our community to join us in taksary to stamp out this evil in our midst". Police said they would be investigating a number of fire-related incidents in Yeo-

vil in recent months. Last Oc

ober, the town centre offices of the Western Gazette news-paper suffered £100,000 dam-age in a firebomb attack. A threatening telephone call had been made to the news-peper, which had highlighted racial attacks in the town. Mr Ashdown and his wife, Jane, were woken by police at about 4am after neighbours called emergency services to the blazing car, which was parked in an open building not far from their thatched

cottage. The building was sev erely damaged. Two men were were seen by officers on a routine patrol a few hours before the attack. A man, aged 51, has been charged with affray and possessing an offensive weapon in relation to the incident in December involving Mr Ashdown. He is due to appear in court next week.

Take a pound of sugar, a DIY kit, 17 years of jokes and misfires – and the sky's the limit



BRITAIN'S DIY spacetrounced sceptics and vindicated years of lonely struggle when his sugarpowered rocket, Starchases II, soared 1,890 feet up yes-terday over the Northum-berland moors.

as he had planned. "My computer projections must have gone astray", he said. But it sent his reputation into orbit and set a record as the largest airworthy home-made rocket built in Europe. Putting a rocket into orbit is Mr Bennett's next project, after years of misfires and jokes.

Tories plan planning to abol-ish grants and insory mortgage-style loans for students as part of a radical overhaul of universities' Conservative Central Office will unveil the plan — the so-called "graduate tax" — next

Study now,

pay later

week in an effort to defuse the The proposed loans would have to be paid back over a period of years and would be collected through national in-surance contributions. A sim-

and New Zealand since the late 1980s. backed away from the levy scheme yesterday in the face of opposition from politicians,

ilar scheme has been operat-ing successfully in Australia

parents and students. The levy had been floated way of making up some of the cuts announced by the Chancellor, Kenneth Clarke, in No vember's Budget.

But the Committee of Vice Chancellors and Principals, representing the 104 British

After an extraordinary graduate students who at ty Senate House, Gareth Roberts, vice-chancellor of Sheffield University and chairman of the committee, called on the Government and the Opposition parties to make a serious commitment to finding a long-term

He said he was looking forward to a constructive discussion with the Education Secretary, Gillian Shephard. "We are being forced to consider such options because the Government has been deficient in Leader comment, page 14

education. "All the political parties have been deficient in not facing up to the need for a new funding system. We cannot abandon our commitment to the quality of our students degrees. If the politicians do not act, we will be forced to."

olan will steal a march on the dithering over a graduate tax. The plan, to be unveiled as part of the Conservatives' manifesto commitment in a Conservative Policial Centre, tive Central Office. recommend adopting a loans scheme financed by private capital from pension funds and banks.

The proposals would not in-clude tuition fees but would grants and loans that students can take out annually These can total up to £3,000 a

year per student. The Tory plan would aim to student financial support — about 30 per cent of the higher education budget — to boost funds for teaching and research, which universities say have reached crisis levels.

day that universities would still impose a "government deficit levy" in 1997 if next year's Budget prolonged the funding crisis.

In an estimated £42 million. The Tory policy group is urging the Government to pilot its scheme by introducing maintenance loans for postwould enable the financial institutions to iron out any problems and test the collec-

The high street banks have resisted involvement in the present student loans system, but Conservative policy advi-sers believe pension funds would be attracted to safe, long-term investment in grad-uates provided the collection mechanism was secure and backed by the Government.



GENE KELLY, the dancer well as choreographer and action to the control of the con Irish charm to Singin' In The Rain, On The Town and other great film musicals of the 1940s and 1950s, died yester-

day at the age of 83.

"Gene died peacefully in his sleep this morning, his wife, Patricia, at his bedside,"
Warren Cowan, his longtime publicist told KCBS-TV. Kelly had suffered strokes in 1994 and 1995, and Cowan said he never really recovered from

He reigned at MGM in the postwar era with serious acting roles as well as musical comedy parts. He also direc-ted Hello, Dolly! and other

His most memorable dance was the title number of Singin' In The Rain, which co-starred Debbie Reynolds.

hearted look at the early days of talking pictures. In 1989, it was one of the first 25 films selected by the US Library of Congress for its National Film Registry of significant

movies. Kelly's acrobatic danc style contrasted with the more elegant Fred Astaire, who began his film career a who began his init care a decade earlier. "People would compare us, but we didn't dance alike at all," he said in a 1994 Los Angeles Times in-terview. "Fred danced in tails — everybody wore them be-fore I came out here — but I took off my coat, rolled up my sleeves and danced in sweat

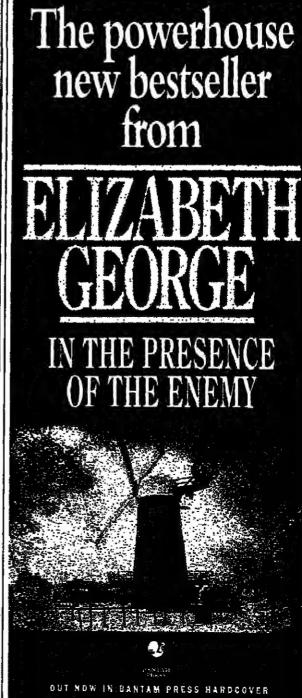
shirts and jeans and khakis." They danced together only twice: as two casual friends spouting cliches in Ziegfeld after a knee in Follies (1946); and at the end of their dancing careers in a

light-footed duet for That's Entertainment Part IL Kelly had more unusua dance partners in the 1945 film Anchors Aweigh, sharing the screen with cartoon characters such as Tom and Jerry. The film, which also co-starred Frank Sinatra and

Kathryn Grayson, won him a 1945 Oscar nomination as best His most bravura perfor mance came with An American in Paris. He created the dances, climaxed by the 17-minute ballet with Leslie Caron to George Gershwin's music. The number cost \$500,000 (2300,000).

The film won the Acade Award as best picture of 1951. He began concentrating on dramatic roles and directing in the late 1950s, particularly after a knee mjury sidelined him from dancing for a couple





Botto accus backi

Blair warns Labour of fall in polls

Patrick Wintour, Chief

EXTENDED

shadow cabinet strat-

egy meeting was

Tony Blair to brace itself for a

Central Office has embraced

Mr Redwood since he quit the Cabinet to fight John Major for the leadership.
Mr Blair has, to a degree.

decided to fight fear with fear by raising the spectre of a fifth Tory term and the threat

of Tory extremism, a theme he adopted on Thursday night

for the first time. The phrase "You're not safe with the Tories" is to be repeated by all shadow cabinet members.

Labour polling, taken be-fore the Harriet Harman af-

ahead on most issues, as well as leadership, social cob-

and being in touch with ordi-

shows the party well

Elite French troops track down 'rogue' Serb snipers

Julian Borger in Saraievo reports on Nato's robust approach to enforcing peace in Bosnia

nary people. Job insecurity remains one of the single blgest issues working against The deputy leader, John Prescott, told the meeting that, after Labour's clear vic-

tory in the Hemsworth byelection, inroads could be made into the Tory vote in substantial fall in Labour's massive poll lead following the Harriet Harman affair. the next byelection in the Tory-held seat of Stafford-Damage from the affair is expected to stem from the revived image of divisions shire South East. Little mention was made

yesterday of Arthur Scargill, whose new Socialist Labour Party just managed to save its within the party.
The shadow cabinet was deposit in Hemsworth, for-merly a strong mining area. shown longterm polling revealing that voter identification with Labour is at an all-time high, but public scep-ticism with all politicisms In an effort "to focus on the Tories like a laser", the meetmeans trust in Labour, one of the keys to the party's elec-tion, could prove fragile. The Tory counter-attack front the party's rebuttals of Tory negative campaigning. It will not be Peter Mandel-son, who will be in charge of

was given a further boost yes-terday when Ceniral Office, in a formal act of reconcilia-tion, issued a speech by John Redwood attacking Labour's idea of a stakeholder econo-my. It is the first time that general election planning. Mr Blair is also eager to connect with voters cynical about politicians by insisting he offers hope over fear, pol-

> Labour offensive, accusing Mr Blair of "buckling under pressure" following Harriet Harman's decision to send her son to a grammar school. "Tony Blair has emerged from three weeks of political misjudgement and exposure rattled and in disarray. This is a man creating the condi-tions for a fifth period of op-position," he said.

Politics, page 5; Labour's hand across the Atlantic, **Cuttook, page 15**

ATO'S first lethal action by ground troops, in which a Serb sniper was tracked and killed on Thursday night, was a covert opera tion by French special forces with a point to prove.

French soldiers stationed in Sarajevo felt guilty for having failed to prevent a Serb grenade attack on a tram on January 9 or to find the perpetrators. So when Nato vehicles came under fire in the Serb suburb of Ilidza on Sunday, their commanders sent an elite team of soldiers to hunt the sniper.

"From our point of view, we failed over the tram inci-Tories like a laser", the meeting agreed a prominent politician should be appointed to serving with Nato's peace implementation force (I-FOR) said. "We had people who passed some days and nights out there waiting for someone to show himself."

From ballistics reports on I-FOR vehicles hit in Ilidza, the French narrowed down the likely source of gunfire. By Thursday they had focused on an abandoned factory near icy not personalities, and issues rather than smears.

The Deputy Prime Minister, Michael Heseltine, was dismissive of the latest "At 6.20 in the evening the the main road from Ilidza to

teams saw unusual activity in the building. Action teams worked towards the building. Other teams provided cover watching with night-sights, the officer said. When a figure raised a rifle,

one of the action teams opened fire, hitting the sniper in the stomach and arm. He was taken to a French field hospital but later died, be-coming the first person shot dead by I-FOR troops since they arrived on December 20.



Some things don't change. In Sarajevo, Nato forces kill a sniper. In Tuxia (above) a woman frustrated by lack of information on missing relatives huris a rock

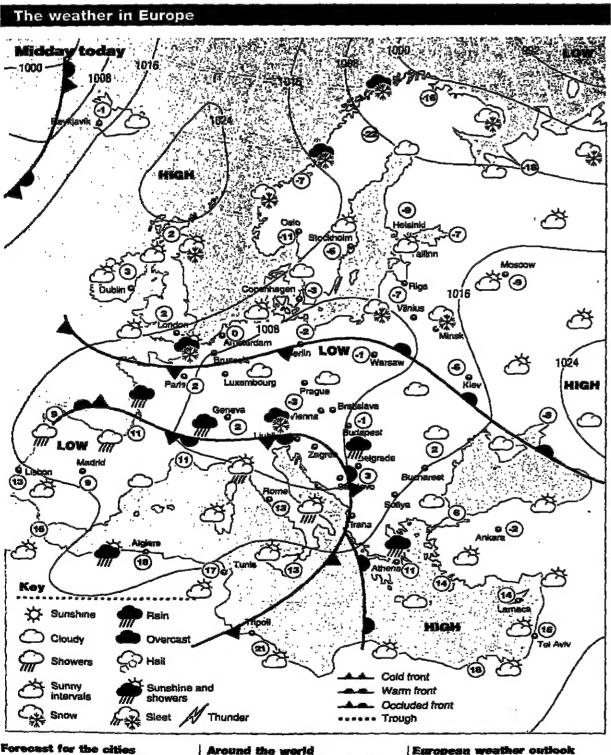
the Bosnian Serb police after

ferred to government rule today. About 15,000 Serbs have already left and many

sniping teams deployed during the war as part of the UN peacekeeping force could

sniper was armed with a said a third suspected sniper had escaped, but Nato spokes scopic sight. A second man with a rifle was arrested on only two gunmen.

Ilidaa is due to be iransthe Sport and handed over to the spot and Nato's determination to use robust methods to enforce the peace agreement was further illustrated on Wednesday when



Around the world

European weather outlook

Another very cold day with snow showers near the west and north coast of Norway, but dry elsewhere with some week wintry surshine. Max temp ranging from -SC in Copenhagen to -20C in the northern intertor.

Low Countries, Germany, Austria, Switzerland;

The Low Countries and Germany should have a mostly dry day with some sunshine, although a few wintry showers may effect the Dusch coast this alternoon. Switzerland and Austria will be more unsettled with rain and mountain snow. Max temp

Praces
Central and northern Franca will be largely dry
with some bright spells from time to time, but the
south can expect a good deal of cloud and occasional showery outbreaks of rain. Max temp rangling from 2C in the far north to 12C in the southwest.
Spales and Protestals

west.

Spalie and Portuguit

Portugui and northern Spain will have a mix of sunny spells and scattered showers. The south and east of Spain should be dry and bright with some sunshine. Max temp 10-17C from north-west to south-east. An unsettled day in most places with only limited bright spells and plenty of sharp showers. The showers probably heaviest and most frequent in the south and east, Max temp 8-15C from north to south.

Creeos:

Most of Greece should start line but showers are likely to spread from the west during the day, the showers parhaps heavy and lengthy. Max temp 7-13C.

Television and radio — Saturday

Classic Animal Tracts. 18.25 WildSte On Two 19.25 PRJB for Two, Trace 2.49 FRJB Splitt for Two, Trace 2.49 FRJB Splitt for 5.80 East Of Esther. 9.00 The Corsh Winfrey Show. 8.40 TOTP2 7.25 The Diane Models Story, 8.13 News And Sport Weather, 8.30 Scriptry. 9.00 The Trac. 19.00 Frombing Me. Knowing You...With Alan Pertridge. 16.30 Peter York's Biglittes. 11.00 FJJB The The Mesquato Coast. 12.35 Weatherview. 1.00 FJJB The Life 2.30 Crose.

BBC Prime

8 Institut
8.00em, BBC World Neves, 8.30 Forget-MeNot-Farm, 6.45 Jacksnory 7.00 The
Arbox Lunch, 7.15 Averager Panguins,
7.40 The Really Wild Guste To British,
8.05 The Secret Genden, 8.35 Blue Peter,
8.00 Mike And Angelo 9.30 Dr Who.
10.00 Best Of Kirdy, 10.48 The Best Of
Arine And No.4, 12.30 The Best Of Pebble
Mill 1-115 Prime Westler, 1.20 Emplement
Cronizue, 8.30 Prime Westler, 2.55
Jocksnory 3.10 Coum Duchals, 8.30 Buse
Peter, 8.55 Wild And Crazy Kids, 4.25
Prime Westler, 1.20 Blast Read,
9.30 The Linch Listed, 6.00 BBC
World News, 6.30 Big Break, 7.30 Nool's
House Party 8.00 Casselly, 8.55 Prime
Westler, 9.00 A Cussion Of Sport, 8.30
Not The Nino O'Clock News, 16.00 The
Stand Up Show 10.30 Top Of The Pops,
11.00 The British Engine 11.20 Whidlis,
12.00 Lun 12.30 Lyton's Dany 1.35
Mother Lune 2.20 Basgerac, 3.16
American Cassia, 4.05 Fumpole Of The
Belley, 5.00 Mother Love,
EBC Wilforld

BBC World Butters and Butter

92.4.94.5 MHz; 198 left; (1514)
7.00cm Nove Briefing, 7.10 Farming
Today, 7.50 Prayer for the Day, 7.55
Westber, 9.00 Today, 9.58 Westber, 9.00 Today, 9.58 Westber, 9.00 Today, 9.58 Westber, 10.00 Rever, 10.00 Sport on 4, 10.30
Brigitary, 11.00 Never; Loose Ends, 12.00 Never, 10c West, in Westminster, 12.90 From Our Own Correspondent, 1.00 Money Box, 13.28 Just a Minute, 13.55
Westber, 2.00 Never, 2.10 Any Ousebrus?
2.55 Shipping Forecast, 2.00 Never, Any Arsword, 3.30 Sauntay Playhouse:
Absolute Senjemers, 6.00 Never, Thefts
Hearry 3.30 Sauntay Playhouse:
Absolute Senjemers, 6.00 Never, Thefts
Hearry 3.30 The Friday Producer, 6.00 File
on 4 6.40 Starwardt 6.50 Shipping
Forecast, 6.55 Westber, 7.00 Bro.
10cm Corbans, 8.20 Kalerdoscope Feature
9.50 Saturday Might Theather, The Years
10cm Corbans, 8.20 Kalerdoscope Feature
9.50 Saturday Might Theather, The Years
10cm Corbans, 10.20 Micsol in Mind 10.50 Ten
10 Ten, 10.20 Micsol in Mind 10.50 Ten
11.18 Sanuta on Stage 11.48 Fedback
12.00 Touch of Genhas, 12.30 The HitchHistory Saude to bin Galany, 1.00 Neves,
11.20 The Late Story Report on an
Understined Spece Station, 13.48 Shepping
Forecast, 2.00 As World Service, 6.50
(FM) Bells on Sunday, 6.85 (FM) The Ratio
4M: Thorne, 8.06 Shipping Forecast, 92.494.5 MHz; 198 MHz (1614)

BBC World Service

Show, 4,50 Wavepulde, 5,00 Newtderk, 5,30 Short Story, 6,46 A World in Your Ear 6,00 Newsday, 6,50 Weekend,

The Morris Charmel

7.00 High Hall. 9.00 Robotis: The Movie. 91.00 Submarine Commissid. 1.00 Son Of Flassid. 9.00 Duncan's World 5.00 Kidz in The Wood. 7.00 Carae Of The Crystal Eye. 9.00 Greedy, 11.00 Carlator Way. 12.35 Live Wire. 9.55 Barbariatos Af The Gale. 4.45 Curse Of The Crystal Eye. Sky Novies

7-AST The Big Parade Of Corredy, 3.00 Ides Me Kiss. 11.00 Red Line 7000. 1.50 Beepless in Seriet. 3.00 Clerance. The Cosserved Lion. 4.45 Cragonword. 5.30 CaS Of The Wild. 8.00 Seepless in Sease. 10.00 Murder One. 11.00 Deedfool. 12.35 Return To Two Moon Junction. 2.15 The Atventures Of Ford Fairlane. 3.55 The New Ass.

Sky Sports

re north
8.00 Golf - Live, 11.00 Rasing News.
11.30 Schoolbay Football, 1.00 Sports
Salarday 7.00 Snooter - Live, 10.30 Hold,
The Back Page, 11.30 Bushido - The
Ultimate Fight, 12.30 International Rugby
Union, 3.00 Hold The Back Page, 4.00
Code.

B.00 Basketbell. 9,00 Eurobut. 9,30 Alpine Skilng. 10,30 Live Blathlon 10,40 Live Alpine Skilng. 11,30 Blathlon. 1,00 Alpine Skilng. 2,00 Live Terrils. 6,00 Live Swirming. 7,30 Football. 9,00 Football. 11,00 Golf. 12,00 Fortball. 9,00 Football. 11,00 Golf. 12,00 Fortball. 9,00 Football. 10,00 Golf. 12,00 Fortball. 9,00 Football. 10,00 Golf. 12,00 Fortball. 9,00 Football. 10,00 Golf. 12,00 Fortball. 9,00 Football. Sky One

© Astra

8.05 Undun. 11.00 Ghoul-Lashed. 12.45
The Perfect Family, 1.00 World Wresting Federation Mann. 2.00 The Ni Market Wresting Federation Mann. 2.00 The Ni Market Washid. 8.00 Kung Fu, The Legand Continues. 8.00 Kung Fu, The Legand Continues. 8.00 Kung-Irus Island. 7.00 World Wresting Federation Superstars. 8.00 Sidentines. 8.00 Undurined Mysteries. 10.00 Cops. 10.20 Schimdler. 12.20 The Javie Show. 12.20 Foremer, Wright. 12.30 WROT In Cincinned. 2.00 Saturday Night Line. 3.00 Fit Mir Long Play. UK Gold

8 Astra
8.00 Size Us A Clue 8.55 Going For Gold, 8.50 Pink Panther, 9.00 Warship, 10.00 Secret Army, 11.00 Noighbours Consilius, 1.00 Rink: Weishership Count. 2.45 Siece This House, 3.18 SestEnders Oraribos, 8.00 TM Death Us De Part, 6.35 Fall Arty Rise Of Registral Perin, 7.10 French Fields, 7.40 R Ain't First Hot, Murn, 9.15 The Updrait Line, 8.48 Bread, 9.25 The Bit Originals, 10.30 Count Draceta, 12.10 Pinc. Best Shot, 2.15 The Lenny Hearty Show, 2.45 Shopping At Night, 7.00 Chors.

Ø Astra/Estelsst
 7.00 The McLaughän Group, 7.30 helic
 Austria, Helic Vitaria, 8.00 (Thi World News.
 8.30 Exrops Journal, 8.00 (Thi World News.
 8.30 Exrops Journal, 8.00 (Sperschool,
 9.000 Computer Circurides, 11.20 Super
 Stop, 12.00 Massers Of Beenty, 12.30 Great
 Houses Of The World, 1.00 Video/sighton
 18.30 Tabling Blues, 2.00 NFL Documentary
 Greatest Geyr 1, 3.00 Helinethin Classic Golf,
 6.00 Thi World News, 6.30 Air Combet
 7.30 The Best Of The Settine Boot Show,
 8.30 Challene Internations, 9.30 Thi World
 News, 10.00 NCAA Seatestable Live, 150,00
 Late Night Wilth Comer O'brien, 1.000 Tablet
 Guess, 13.30 The Tongist Show With Joy
 Leno 2.30 The Selve Sops Show, 3.30
 Tallium Store, 4.00 Revera Live, 6.00 The
 Selve, 5.00 Revera Live, 6.00 The
 Selve Sops Book Sops Show, 3.30
 NEC Meure With Tom Bridgew.

S APPRISON THE Rim. 8.00 Fire On The Rim. 7.00 Fire On The Rim. 8.00 Fire On The Rim. 8.00 Fire On The Rim. 8.00 Fire On The Rim. 9.00 Fire Fights. 18.00 Fire Fights. 18.00 Fire Rights. 18.00 Fire Rights. 18.00 Fire Rights. 18.00 Editor Of The Control of Rights. 18.00 Editor Of The Control of Rights.

Television and radio — Sunday

T-15ass Open University: Pure Meths.
10.10 Jacksnory, 10.25 Phantom 29/0,
10.50 Highly Sprung! 11.15 Grange HE.
11.40 Agent Z And The Fenguin From Mers. 12.05 As Seen On TV. 12.20 Top Soors. 12.45 She Triel. 1.35 Farthery Footbell Leegue, 2.06 Singled Out. 2.50 Regional Programmes. 3.00 Snooler - The Mesters. 6.20 Sid Stundey, 6.65 Ringby Special 6.85 Natural World. 7.45 The Highest Stunder, 10.20 The Morenty Programme. 10.00 The Touriet, 10.30 Smoker. The Mesters. 12.50 Weatherwise, 12.55 Philip Majersen. 2.45 Close. 3.00 The Learning Zone: FETV Collectables: Through The Looking States/Survival Guide To Food. 7.50 Close.

EBC Prime

R Instead

6.00em BBC World News. 6.30 Telling
7.16c. 6.45 Jectanory, 7.00 Button Moon
7.16 Court Dudois, 7.45 Wild And Craty
Rids. 8.00 The Gorniel Factor, 8.25 Bue
Peter, 8.50 The Boot Streen Band, 8.30 A
Ousston CI Sport, 10.00 Best Of Kiltry,
10.45 The Best Of Anna And Mici, 12.30
The Best CF Pabble MR. 1.15 Prime
Weather, 1.30 The Sill Ormbius, 2.45 Hot
Chefs, 2.25 Prime Weather, 2.30 Eutlin
Moon 2.45 Jetticanov, 3.00 The Anthon
Lunch, 3.15 Avenger Penguins 3.40 Blue
Peter Special, 4.05 The Resity Wild Guide
70 British, 4.30 The Great Annouse Juni.
6.00 The World At War 6.00 BBC World
News, 6.30 Cesties, 7.00 Kingdom of the
Ice Beer, 8.00 Return to Blood River, 9.35
Songs Ol Praise 11,00 Preston Front,
12.00 Just Good Friends, 12.30 The
Agatha Christie Hour, 1.25 Growing Pains,
2.20 Anna Karnolina, 3.19 The Trouble
With Medicina, 4.10 The Agatha Christie
Hour, 8.05 Growing Pains.
BBC World

BBC World

© Estalisat.

8.00mm BBC World News. 8.20 Brisin' In View. 7.00 BBC World News. 7.20 This West. 8.00 BBC World Headfings. 8.05 Assignment. 9.00 BBC World News. 8.25 Time Out: The Clothes Stow. 10.00 BBC World News. 14.20 BBC World News. 14.20 The Late Show. 12.00 BBC World News. 14.20 The Late Show. 12.00 BBC World Headfines. 1.00 BBC World News. 7.20 Window On Barrow. 8.00 BBC World News. 7.20 Mindow On Barrow. 8.00 BBC World News. 7.20 Mindow On Barrow. 8.00 BBC World News. 7.20 Window On Barrow. 8.00 BBC World News. 7.20 BBC World News. 8.20 Time Out Cpc.0. 10.00 BBC World News. 8.20 Time Out Cpc.0. 10.00 BBC World News. 1.210 The Money Programms. 1.00 BBC Newscay. ● Exeined

92,484.6 MHz 198 Mt (1514) 92,494.6 Afriz: 195 kitz (1514)
7,00 ten News Briefing, 7,40 Something Understood, 7,56 Weather, 8,00 News, 8,10 Sunday Fapers, 8,15 On Your Farm, 8,40 Sunday Fapers, 8,15 On Your Farm, 8,40 Sunday, 9,80 The Weath's Good Cause, 9,56 Weather, 10,16 Latter from America, 10,30 Auriling Service, 11,15 The Archers, 12,15 Mechanises, 12,45 Sontimental Journey, 1,45 Desert Island Discs, 1,58 Weather, 2,00 The World This Westend, 2,85 Shipping Foreasts, 4,000 Gentoners' Coestion Time, 2,55 Cleasic Serial; Gifter of Micz, 4,30 Pek of the West, 5,15 Analysis, 6,00 News, CrimeesSpee, 6,30 Policy Mics. 4.30 Pick of the Week, 3.15 Analysis.
5.00 News, Crimestapes, 6.30 Pickry
Pleased 6.30 Shipping Frencest, 6.45
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Feedback, 7.30 is Search of the Neilorial
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Frencest, 6.00 Criticis in 8.80 A Root
Frencest, 6.00 Root
Frencest, 7.10 News
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BBC World Service BBC World Service

7.00em Newaday, 7.30 Julz for the
Asion, 8.00 World News 8.16 Global
Conteams. 8.90 From Our Own
Corresponders. 8.90 White On. 8.00 World
News. 8.10 World New 8.15
International Cuestion Time. 16.00 World
News. 16.00 World Business Review.
10.15 in Prese of Cod. 10.45 Sports
Reseadup, 11.400 Newslessk. 11.30 English
Teaching, 11.46 Short Story, 12.00
World News. 1.05 World Business Brief.
1.15 Shorts Today 1.30 Anything Goes.
2.00 Newshour 8.00 News Summary

2.30 Anything Soles, 3.00 Newsdow, 3.20 Composer of the Month, 4.00 World News. 4.16 Sporte Rounday, 4.30 Jezz for the Agidng, 5.00 Newsdowt, 5.30 Europe Today, 6.00 Newsdow, 5.30 Europe Today, 6.00 Newsdow, 6.50 Europe Today.

The Movie Channel 2.00 Lible Boy Lost, 9.00 The Gnomes' Greek Adventure 11.00 Sidelecte; 1.00 Hurricane Smitt, 3.00 The Gypsy Warric 8.00 What's Eating Githert Gripse? 7.00 Sidelectes; 1.00 Sed Listemant, 2.40 Passion Fish, 8.00 The Gypsy Warriors

Sky Movies

7.00 i Romember Manna. 9.20 Markowe. 11.00 Coneheads. 1.00 Pumping Iron R. The Women. 3.00 Medice: 9.00 Seriman Cowboy. 7.00 Conteheads. 8.30 Weekend At Samie's II 10.00 Marder One 11.00 Against The Wall. 12.50 The Medice Show. 1.25 Bad Dreams. 2.45 Chantify Lace 4.25 Final Chapter - Walking Tall. Sky Hovies Gold

1.00 Lift Dance 2.00 Destration Moon. 5.00 Liverance Of Arabia. 5.55 Can't Stop The Music. 11.00 Full Metal Jacket. 1.00 Fast Times At Ridgemont High. 2.30 The Violent Men. 4.10 Close. Sky Sports

8.00 Golf - Live. 11.00 Opposite Lock -International Motrosport. 1.00 Goals On Sunday 2.00 Hold The Back Page. 2.30 Futbol Mandai. 4.00 Ford Escori Super Sunday - Live 8.00 ins Hockey - Live 10.00 Footbell Special, 1.00 its Hool 3.00 Close.

Eurosport 8.30 Forball, 10.30 Live Blathon 10.40 Live Aloine Saling, 11.30 Blathon, 1.00 Aloine Saling, 2.00 Live Ternia, 4.00 Live Swinsming, 6.00 Cyclo-Cross 7.00 Boxing 8.00 Aerobics, 8.00 Dancing, 11.00 Golf 12.00 Fooball 1.30 Code

Sity One Patra
7.00 Hour Of Power. 8.00 Unders. 11.00
Ghoul-lashed. 12.45 The Parfect Family
1.00 The Pit Mis. 2.00 Star Trek. 3.00
The Pit Mis. 2.00 Star Trek. 3.00
The Advertures Of Brisco County Junor
4.00 Star Trek Voyager. 8.00 World
Westling Federation Action Zone. 8.00
Great Sucapes. 8.30 Mighty Morphin
Power Rangers. 7.00 The Simpsons. 7.80
The Simpsons. 8.00 Severly Hitle 90210
8.00 Star Trek. Voyager. 10.00
Highlander. 11.00 Renegade. 12.00
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2.00 Shar Wolf Of London 3.00 Hg Mib.
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 ASO Gree Us A Clue, 8:25 Going For Gold, 8:35 The Pink Penther Show 9:00 Spring And Autumn, 9:20 And Mother Hatkes Five 10:00 When The Boat Cornes in 11:00 The Pink Panther Show, 11:10 Dr Who And The Ribos Operation, 1:00 Doctor At The Top, 1:30 If Ann't Half Hot, Murn, 2:00 Firm Doctor At Large, 3:50 The Bid Ormitists, 4:10 Bergera, 7:23 Some Mothers Do Ave Tem, 8:200 The Paul Daniels Magic Show, 4:00 Kiss Marple: Murder At The Vicerage, 11:10 The Bid Avolfscrate Show, 11:40 A Very Pacular Practice, 12:50 Reilly Aca Of Spice, 1:50 Public Eye, 2:50 Stropping, 4:00 Glose, Semerchannel. Itail of cytic

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8.00 Batile Stations. 6.00 Batile Stations 7.00 Wondars of Weather. 7.30 Time Travellers. 8.00 Bush Tucker Man. 8.30 Arber C Clarke's Myserkus Universe 9.00 The Falklands War. 10.00 The Falklands War. 11.00 The Falklands War. 12.00 The Falklands War. 1.00 Closs

Bottomley accused of backing Sky

A move to protect big sports events on TV may have been undermined, writes

Andrew Culf

IRGINIA Bottomley, the National Heritage Secretary, was em-broiled last night in a clash with a cross-party alli-ance of peers after the Government appeared to reject curbs on Rupert Murdoch's

consultation document on televising big sports events four days before a Lords vote on the Broadcasting Bill was denounced by a former Con-servative minister, Lord Peyton, as a "rather grubby

The Government is facing defeat in the Lords on Tuesday on an amendment to the bill which would bar subscription channels from gaining exclusive access to eight "listed" sports events, including Wimbledon, the Grand National and the World Cup.

The consultation document which the BBC claims relies heavily on data supplied by BSkyB, says fresh curbs on satellite TV could mean British sport losing vital funds.

The sponsors of the Lords amendment — the former Labour sports minister Lord Howell, the former Speaker Lord Weatherill, the Liberal Democrat Lord Thomson, and Lord Peyton — said the Government's last-minute consultation was a cynical attempt

Lord Donoughue, Labour national heritage spokesman, denounced it as an outrato stiffe debate in the Lords when leading peers of all par-ties would express support for national access to big events. Mrs Bottomley said the doc-

ument was designed to in-form the public and Parlia-mentary debate about balancing interests of sport-ing bodies and broadcasters over the sale of television rights. But its tone suggested the Government would prefer that Sky had increased the amount of sport on television from 3,000 hours a year to more than 12,000. Mrs Bot-

that a core of sporting events should be freely available to the nation. But the Government is concerned that ill-thought through changes could deprive sports of a pri-mary source of income.

Amid rumours of a cabine disagreement, she sided with the desire of sporting bodies' to seek the market rate for their events. "The Govern-ment believes the weight of responsibility should be with the sports authorities. It is they who should balance the maximisation of audience with maximisation of in-come." The Government plans meetings with broad-casters, consumer bodies, sports bodies and supporters groups to canvass opinion.

In a highly unusual move a group of peers have tabled an additional amendment which brought back to the Lords at the end of consultation. Lord Howell said: "The Government has displayed

pure panic. It is trying to cut the Lords out of the process because it fears defeat." Whitehall sources dismissed as nonsense sugges-tions that Mrs Bottomley was trying to circumvent the

A spokesman for BSkyB velcomed the initiative: "Sky both money and airtime into sport and believes that this investment benefits partici-pants at all levels and will help the continued improvements in sports facilities. A BBC spokesman said:"The evidence is that

people want action. This process gives them the opportu-nity to put their views and the corporation expressed surprise the document was plied by BSkyB. Terry Blake, marketing di

rector of the Test and County Cricket Board, said the listing of events would effectively tie its hands in seeking the most money for the sport. A joint £58 million deal with the BBC and BSkyB has helped fund local cricket.

David Davies, director public affairs for the Football Association, said: "Our responsibility is clear. We must always seek to maximise our football at all levels while also more than 12,000. Mrs Bot-tomley said: "The Govern-sibility to the wider public."

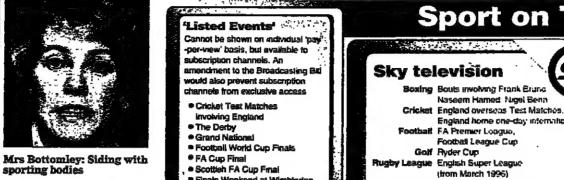


The Derby, one of the events subscription TV would not be able to buy up

Sport on TV

ingland home one-day FA Premier Loague

Football League Cup





from March 1996) Terrestrial television Golden Four Grand Pro meetings (ITV) Football FA Cup (BBC, ITV from 1998). FA Premier League (BBC recorded high

Euro '96 (BBC & ITV) Golf British Open Champi Horse Racing Grand National, Royal Ascot (BBC). The Derby (Ch 4) Lawn Tennis Wimbledon (BBC until 1999) Motorsport Formula One motor racing (BBC, ITV from 1997)
Implc Game Summer Games (BBC until 2008) tugby League Challenge Cup/Regal trophy Rugby Five Nations Championships

2,000 jobs go as electricity shops close

ORE than 2,000 electricity show-room staff in the V Midlands South of England will lose their jobs with the closure of almost 200 Powerhouse shops announced yesterday.

The company's remaining 120 shops will concentrate on selling electrical goods and will stop providing services for the three electricity companies in their area, further extending the withdrawal from the high street of the privarised electricity companies The move by the chain for-merly owned by Eastern,

Southern and Midlands electricity companies follows the sale of showrooms by London, Yorkshire and East Mullands, and the shrinking of retail chains in other areas. Only Norweb and Scottish Power have remained committed to retail operations, and they have focused on out-of-town superstores, as have competitors such as Currys and Comet. The Rumbelows chain was closed at the beginning of

last year after years of losses. The Powerhouse closures were condemned by the Libour Party, which linked the announcement to Conser-vative Party contributions by the parent company, Hanson whose annual meeting this week approved a £100,000 donation. "Before the ink has dried on its cheque to the Tories. Hanson was signing the redundancy notices for 2,300 employes," said the shadow employment minis-ter. Ian McCartney. "The back its latest handout in protest at Hanson's behaviour, or to these employees to help them find another job."

The Unison trade union said the closures were disas-trous for the high street as well as for staff. Mick Brade, southern regional officer, said his members had been treated with contempt since the electricity privatisation. "The fat cats have got fatter while my members have been kicked from pillar to post." A union spokesman pointed out that many people used the showrooms as service points. The implication is clearly

service operation," he said.

An MER Powerhouse store

names have created other service operations, mainly would be able to pay bills without charge at 2,700 post offices, while 60 would have freephone links to the comextra key-charging points in ernces for meters

Shops in the Southern region will lose almost 1,000 obs. 860 jobs will go in former lands regions will lose 700

Powerhouse said the clo sures were essential because tense competition in electrical retailing. The chain was formed by Eastern and Southern Electricity in 1993 in the the individual chains. Midland added its retail opera-

Hanson gained part of Pow erhouse when it bought up Eastern Electricity. It then bought out the shares of Mid-land and Southern last spring. But losses have con-tinued, increasing from £5 million to £7 million in 1994-5, with a further £16 million of one-off costs.

Yesterday Glyn Moser, the Powerhouse chief executive appointed last March, said; "This loss-making scenario cannot continue. The plan offers our remaining staff a that they are moving to a protects the profitable core of retail operation rather than a the business and offers the ervice operation," he said. prospect of a viable future for The three electricity com- Powerhouse."

Tycoon pleads with court over inquiry

'Copperfingers' goes to law to protect his group's name

Dan Atkinson and Paul Murphy

HR commodities tycoon Charles "Copperfingers" Vincent took exceptional High Court action yesterday to protect the name of his hugely profitable Winchester

group. Mr Vincent, whose £15 mil-lion earnings last year made him possibly Britain's highest-paid company director, applied for judicial review of an inquiry by City regulators into dealings between Win-chester and Chilean copper corporation Codelco.

A compromise agreed in court means Mr Vincent will know by Thursday morning whether Winchester is to face disciplinary action from the Securities and Futures Authority, the agency which quiry, Codelco's London solic-polices brokers and City deal-itors Herbert Smith & Co are

ers, over its Codelco activi-

Yesterday, in what the company's QC described as an ex-ceptional case. Winchester asked the High Court to order the SFA to conclude swiftly its inquiry into the company. The inquiry started in April

The agency had promised on Thursday to make a decision on whether to proceed within 10 days. The SFA is looking at seven trades executed on Codelco's

behalf, totalling 70,000 tonn of copper, on January 4, 1994. Codelco is suing at least one London metal broker — not Winchester — in connection with losses of more than £132 million suffered in the early 1990s in speculative copper trading.

Separate from the SFA in-quiry, Codelco's London solic-

looking into trades for the with the adverse publicity corporation during the suffered by the company, 10 period, including days was a relatively long

Lord Donoughue: 'A trick to

stifle debate in the Lords'

Lord Howell: 'Government

displaying pure panic'

In the High Court yesterday Charles Flint QC, represent-ing Winchester, said his cli-ent wanted the SFA to reach a swift decision regarding its investigation of the Codelco

Mr Flint said that so far the SFA had "no suggestion of any misconduct on the part of Winchester's file, he said, had been with the SFA's legal department since June and had made this clear.
Should evidence of such

misconduct come to light, he The judge brokered a deal said, the SFA had pledged to between Winchester and SFA make it available to Winchester for the group's response. Mr Justice Ognall suggested that, given the SFA had undertaken to reach a decision in 10 days, a full-blown hearing and ruling seemed akin to taking a sledge-hammer to crack a nut.

time to wait. He added that Mr Vincent, who was in court, operated in "a market in which a company such as Winchester depends on its good name". He stressed that time was of the essence. "I realise this is an excep-

matter, the only matter outstanding in its inquiry into the Hampshire group. Winchester has been cleared of never sought to prevent SFA from inquiring into any matters".

under review by a senior SFA official since January 12.

whereby the latter agreed that, by the close of business next Wednesday, it will have written to Winchester with its decision on the inquiry. Should any misconduct have come to light, the evidence will be presented to Winchester. Otherwise, the inquiry



Trail of cyber-sex, lies and floppy disks ends in divorce suit

Ian Katz in New York

OHN GOYDAN did not have to hire a private detective to confirm his suspicions that his wife was having an affair. Nor did he need to read her letters or eavesdrop on her telephone calls. He watched the whole thing

on his computer screen.
In a cautionary tale of sex,
lies and floppy disks in the new information age, the New Jersey husband has become the first person to sue for divorce on the grounds that his spouse allegedly committed adultery in cyberspace.

finger on each other," she wrote in one e-mail message. "But I guess it'll be a different story in a couple of weeks." Mr Goydan, who works for a computer company, became

suspicious in October when he returned home early from work to find his wife surreptitiously printing out some thing from their computer. He began reading her e-mail messages and found electronic missives from a man calling himself the Weasel,

but whose real name is said to be Ray. In one, he boasted he was a master of deception. His wife, Diane, never met the PC paramour with whom dan's wife were scarcely more

she flirted electronically for reassuring. She told the Weamonths. "We haven't laid a sel she wanted to be with him sel she wanted to be with him that night "so we could do this rumble/rumble quietly and in bed in flannel nightshirts (no pants)".

But Mr Flint told him that.

The couple swapped "proxy kisses" and erotic fantasies, and on Christmas Eve The Weasel wrote Mrs Goydan a poem: "Twas the night before Christmas, and all did seem right/The Weasel and Diane were planning their night." In his divorce suit, Mr Goy-dan claims his wife and her

cyber-lover planned a secret assignation this month, but he concedes that their affair was never consummated His lawyer, Richard Hurley, said that while the couple | left by her affair.

technology is taking us these days". Other divorce lawyers doubt that Mrs Goydan's electronic betrayal constitutes evidence of adultery. The case will send a shiver

through the thousands of computer users engaged in what they believed were discreet affairs on the laternet and so-called on-line services that have become the singles bars of the 1990s. Aware of her husband's

uspicions, Mrs Goydan warned her lover, who is also married, to "get rid of that paper trail". But she could Yes, I wish to receive EuroBusiness Magazine for three issues free. After that I may subscribe at the special introductory offer of £18 (a discount of over 33%).

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Three-Year	£54	£61 eau 73 20	£66 \$99	£75 \$112.50

Asked whether the past year has given him more or less respect for the press, Lord Wakeham says: "Probably more, and strangely enough, more respect for the tabloids. The truth of the matter is that the tabloids are in a highly competitive business, fighting on the very margins of what is possible and what is not possible to say."

Megan Tresidder Outlook page 17

But he is not going far

living playwright is moving just 300 yards down the

road to plusher quarters — a 1930s art deco former

a cost of £5.1 million. It is the fulfilment of

ible by a £1.5 million National Lottery grant, a vigorous fundraising drive and two big individual do-nations (including £400,000

He has described leaving the Stephen Joseph Theatre

in a former grammar school as akin to parting with "a familiar friend".

But he also accepts the

move is long overdue.
"There will be a real mixture of joy and sadness when we close the doors behind us," said Jeannie Swales, publicity officer for the theatre. 'The place has become too small and ram shackled for us, but it holds very happy memories.` plex will offer state-of-the art technology, including a ences will be more familiar with in a big city than a

"We are moving in to the big league now," insisted Ms Swales. The theatre will, tion as one of the few reper tory companies not operating a star performer system.

Avckbourn writes at

least one play a year, with each performed in Scar-borough by jobbing actors before going to the West End or Broadway with big-

The new Stephen Joseph Theatre will open at the end of April with By Jeeves, a rewritten musical collaboration with Andrew

from Ayckbourn).

seaside town.

name casts.

Stephen Joseph Theatre staff in Scarborough moving wardrobe items to their new £5 million home nearby

West the curtain on Ayck One Ayckbourn Scarborough theatre where he has launched all but three of his 49 plays in the as another falls

Sentence 'signals loss of faith in psychiatric help'

Ten life terms for knifings in shop

Duncan Campbell Crime Corresponde

MAN with a history ran amok and knifed 15 women in a de-1994 was given 10 life sen-tences at Birmingham Crown

Court yesterday.

It was the second time in two days that a mental patient had been sent to prison rather than to a secure hospi-tal. Mental health campaigners said it signalled a com-plete loss of faith in the ability of the psychiatric ser-vices to deal with violent

David Morgan, aged 31, of Aston, Birmingham, received the sentences after admitting with intent to cause grievous bodily harm and one of as-His random attacks took place in Rackhams store in the city centre. Morgan had attacked the

and a butcher's knife as they shopped in the store's cosmet-ics department. It was only after he had slashed 15 women that he was subdued. According to relatives, Morgan was profoundly af-fected by his father's death in

1988 and ceased to talk. He be-came obsessed with militarism and had a hatred of

mingham's All Saints Psychi-atric Hospital, where he was diagnosed as suffering from schizophrenia, hypomania and depressive psychosis. He



David Morgan: schizophrenic depressive who hated women

bonate, which seemed to help. He was released with directions that he should receive support from the community psychiatric team. But Adrian Fulford QC, defending, told the court "It appears from the records that effectively there was no follow-up at all." In 1992 and 1993 Morgan was conditionally discharged attacks on women in the street. Two months before the Rackhams attacks he told his GP of his thoughts of attacking women. He was referred to a psychiatrist, who said he could find no signs of mental

Morgan also pleaded guilty to assaulting Steve Messen-ger, a psychiatric nurse, at Ashworth high security hospital while on remand last December. He had slashed the nurse's throat with a razor

blade. Mr Justice Igor Judge told Morgan: "There can be no

tremely dangerous man. It is certain you must be detained until you cease to represent a risk to public safety. If that time never comes, so be it." He recommended that he should not be considered for parole for at least 12 years.

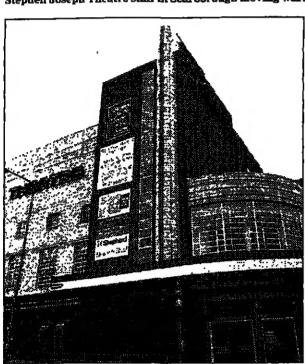
A defence application for further psychiatric reports to see if Morgan could be detained in a psychlatric hospital was refused by the judge. Mr Fulford said his client had given warning of his mental state: "He was expressing great concern about he had ... This was a very depressed man who was ask-

ng for some assistance. Afterwards Tracey Hitch-mough, aged 28, a former Rackhams security officer, who received 21 stitches in a throat wound said: "I'm glad it's all over. I hate him. He's changed my life completely My personality has change used to.

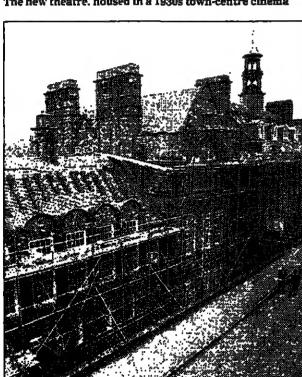
Mental health campaigners saw the sentence as a sign that Britain was following the fenders rather than treating them in hospital.

Marjorie Wallace of the charity Sane said: "It is a terrible indictment of the psychiatric system." She called for an end to bed closures and

On Thursday Wayne Hutch inson, aged 21, received six life terms at the Old Bailey after killing two people, try-ing to shoot one person and wounding three others while



The new theatre, housed in a 1930s town-centre cinema



bourn's bleak comedy Just Between Ourselves, it will Between Ourselves, it will mark the end of an unusual artistic union. For Ayckartistic union. For Ayck-bourn is leaving the tiny

Angella Johnson on a £5m scene change

WANT A CHANGE

TAKE A LOOK AT

OUR RANGE.

Head avoids discipline

Shephard refuses to bar teacher 14-year-old daughter Slan left the school in 1994. who 'covered up child abuse'

Gary Younge

HE Education Socre-tary, Gillian Shephard. has refused to bar a for mer headteacher implicated in covering up the abuse of disabled children at a special school near Levis, it emerged vesterday.

Mentally and physically disabled children were sworn at, denied food and slapped by a member of staff over 10 years at the school, run by Scope, formerly the Spastics Society, an internal investigation revealed.

The charity admitted that the headteacher had lied to parents, governors and the social services, when he de-nied that the abuse had taken place. He had also flouted both the law and child protection procedures when he mer parent governor whose

In August the department replied: "Having received the full report from Scope the Sec-

failed to report allegations of abuse to the social services. He was suspended in 1994 pending an investigation and resigned from the school be-fore its conclusions were to "consider barring action" under the terms of the Edua-tion (Teachers) Regulation known. He has not been disciplined. In May last year a parent whose child attended the

Hawksworth Hall School at Guiseley, West Yorkshire, which has been granted ap-proved status by the Department for Education and Employment, asked the department to comment on whether the headteacher would be permitted to work with children with special

needs again. "Do you think it is suitable or moral for such a person to seek a position of responsibility in special education"
asked Kevin O Toole, a for-

retary of State has concluded that no further action would be appropriate on her part so far as any individual is concerned." It was conceded that Mrs Shephard had the power

Mr O'Toole said: "If deliber-ately lying about the abuse of disabled children doesn't warrant someone being barred from doing this kind of job then you have to wonder what it would take."

A spokeswoman for the de-partment said last night: "We have considered all the information and do not consider that any action is necessary." Parents of 14 disabled chiltaking private legal action after the Crown Prosecution Service

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The habit of a lifetime



MORTGAGES

Planners try new tricks to thwart old bill stickers

Gary Younge

BILL Stickers is an elusive criminal. For years he has ignored well publicised threats of his imminent brush with the law. But now Swansea city council is getting tough. Tired of warning flyposters that "Bill Stickers will be prosecuted", it has ap-

the city walls. The council's planning committee has decided to arm

street cleaners, litter war-dens, and planning officers with "cancelled" stickers which they can paste on to offending posters.

Hit squads will also be sent around the city on Sundays to he added, citing the case of a rip down all the posters they flyposter last year who was rill be prosecuted", it has approved a novel method to prevent those organising night, chubs and political meetings. The down all the posters they flyposter last year who was given a conditional discharge and made to pay £10 costs to the council.

from touting their wares on | number of posters decreases due to the knowledge that they will only be in place for a very limited period," said planning director David

> "Where successful prosecutions have been made, the fine is, in my opinion, inadequate to act as a deterrent."

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YOUR H

Arthur Scargill and his party were far from being the toast of the breakfast after the night before, reports David Ward

Hemsworth's New Labour MP tastes sweet victory

Hemsworth yesterday grasped a bottle of HP sauce and shook a large metaphorical dollop of the brown stuff all over Arthur Scargill
Jon Trickett, still relishing his 72 per cent share of the vote, had turned up for a vic-tory breakfast with his wife Sarah and party workers at the council offices (a former convent) in South Kirkby, West Yorkshire.

As a forkful of scrambled

egg hurtled into his mouth, his boot went into the founder of the Socialist Labour Party, whose candidate Brenda Nixon polled just under 2,000

"Everywhere you went in the campaign, it was Scar-gill," he recalled. "I don't think we heard Mrs Nixon speak until yesterday. This was Arthur Scargill's show and he ought to have stood. But he lacked the moral courage to stand and be associated with that kind of defeat. I think it was a disgraceful per-

Ms Nixon said the rules of one who had been a member the National Union of Mineworkers prevented Mr Scargill from standing for those people. He was going Parliament. She also rubbed round on the stump introducMr Trickett's nose in his grilled tomato by reminding him that Labour had prehim that Labour had prepeal to traditional loyalties

HE new Labour (or New Labour) MP for Miles (Cab) 15,817 (71.9%) N Hazeli (C) D Ridgway (L/D) 1,516 (6.9%) B Nixon (\$ Lab) 1,193 (5.4%)

> Other candidates: Peggy Alexander (Green) 157: Michael Cooper (National Democraf) 111: Peter Davies (LS/ Independent) 455: Diamie Leighton (Natural Law 28: Lord Sutch (Official Monster Raving

5.4% Con to Lab General election 1992: Derei Enrighi (Lab) 29,342, Garnet Harnson (Con) 7,867, Val-erie Megson (Lib Cem) 4,459 Labour ma-jority 22,075, Turnoui 75,9%.

dicted she would come last and lose her deposit.
"I don't think Mr Scargill was my mouthpiece at all," she said. "But because of who he is, he is bound to attract a lot of attention. When I did

speak, what I said often went unreported." Mr Trickett reached for an-other slice of toast and went on the marmalade offensive.

The SLP's Brenda Nixon: 'What I said was unreported'

made a ha'p'orth of difference to people who were deter-mined to vote Labour and did

This view was broadly echoed a couple of miles away in South Elmsall, where the removal men were loading Labour's triumphant photo-copier into a van and the Lib Dems across the road were unsticking their David Ridg-"Almost everyone I met had been or was related to some campaign which itself had come unstuck. The shops they occupied will rejoin many others in the town waiting for tenants.

In the market (3lb of conference pears for 50p; selected steam puddings 55p), one visi-

believe in Arthur's policies — I'd sooner support the Greens, who believe in what they say. He's just feathering his own

But some, including Colin Mears, a traditional Labour voter with a shopping bag, were prepared to be generous. "Arthur's making his way through life. He was unlucky with the miners' strike and lost because the Notts miners worked. Let the man do what he wants. It's up to him and I think he's all right. If it was tight and I fancied his policies more than the Labour man, he'd get my vote."

His friend Sammy Davies, invalided out of the pits when he was 53, was equally kind. Of course the SLP was right to field a candidate. more there are, the better the

selection," he said.

Back in the former convent gloriously greasy Old Labour bacon sandwiches, Mr Trick ett recalled a warm gesture from an opponent.

A fringe candidate had abandoned his own interest and urged voters to support Labour. He followed Mr Trickett with a small red car-pet, casting it before his feet at photo opportunities, bel-lowing at Mr Trickett: "You



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Local heat over Harman cools

Alex Bellos

GRASSROOTS revolt against Harriet Har-man fizzled out yester-day after attempts to call for her resignation failed at branch meetings of her con-stituency Labour Party.

Activists in Peckham, angered by the shadow health secretary's decision to send her son to a selective grammar school outside the area, appear to have buried the hatchet. They will support general committee meeting on February 15.

John Friary, a Labour councillor who had wanted Ms Harman to resign from the shadow cabinet, said: "She made things difficult for the party, but then there is absolutely no question of us being dissatisfied with her work as an MP. I think every-

one supports her now."

The closest rebels got to giving their MP problems at Thursday's nine annual branch meetings, where county. cillors seek re-election to the general committee, was in St. Giles ward, where a proposal for an emergency motion calling for her resignation was defeated by 21 to 6.

defeated by 21 to 6.

Similar proposals failed to materialise at the other

Labour's fault that schools are selective. She is making the best of a bad mess."

Brunswick branch, which has perhaps the most vocal antiquorate.

Clare Cozens, chairman of the local Labour Party, said she had had no telephone calls from any of its 760 memno groundswell of opinion. There are not people separately turning up to meetings to have a go at Harriet."

A straw poll of Labour vot-ers on Peckham High Street indicated that the furore. which gave Tony Blair his worst week since he became leader, was unlikely to hit the party at the ballot box.

Gillian Chinweokwu, a housewife aged 46, said: "I think she should have sent her son locally. I agree with the posters against her that say 'Do as I say, not as I do'. But I would not stop voting for her. She does do a lot of

good. She listens to what people have to say."

Joe Hunt, aged 77, said: "It's not been a big deal locally. If I could afford to send my kids to a better school I would. She's doing a good job." Ros Effer, aged 32, unem-ployed, said: "She is quite within her rights. It is not

role is to support the leader-

ship, and communicate with

the party, and not just to be on guard for betrayals by the

leadership. The party must not be left on the sidelines, as Tony says Bye, bye. I am PM

The project, entitled The

brainstorming sessions by NEC members working in

four task groups will produce big reforms in four areas — to the NEC's method of working, its relations with a Labour

Blair seeks ways to boost links with party membership

Patrick Wintour, Chief Political Correspondent

ONY Blair has ordered a review of how a better relationship can be forged be-tween a future Labour government and its 360,000 strong Party in Power, is being over-seen by the NEC itself with the help of management con-sultants. Mr Sawyer hopes membership, including the party national executive.

Mr Blair, and his party gen-eral secretary Tom Sawyer. want a new party structure and culture which could avert a repeat of the disastrous break-down in relations be-

They are keen to try new ways of involving the party's membership and believe the national executive's primary role should be as a sympathetic conduit between membership and government. Mr Sawyer said: "The gen-

eral perception last time was that a Labour government had failed the party. On one hand. Tony Benn led the NEC and, on the other, Jim Calla-ghan led the government and parliamentary party. Next time we want to have a working partnership between the party and the government. That involves better communication between the two, but

government, the party's democracy and party activism on the ground. Dennis Skinner, the only NEC member to reject the inquiry, has already voiced left wing suspicions that the project is designed to eliminate potential points of resistance

within the party to a Blair-led government. He has speculated Mr Blair wants to introduce biennial

party conferences and turn the NEC into a cheerleader in the party for the leadership.

He said: "We don't need management consultants to

tell us that the relations between the party and a Labour nication between the two, but government will not be good. it also needs a public recogni- It follows like night follows tion from the NEC that its day."

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Defiant Serbs try to hold on to Croatian territory

Zagreb threatens to seize Eastern Slavonia if its leaders attempt to scuttle the peace deal, writes Chris Hedges in Vukovar

trying to undermine a provision in the Dayton peace agreement which calls for them to relinquish this last slice of Serbian-held territory in Croatia.

Serb authorities in the contested region have refused to acknowledge publicly that it will be reintegrated into

Since last week they have been broadcasting television and radio announcements urging the 30,000 Serbian refugees who were driven out of other parts of Croatia — and are now in Serbia — to settle in the territory.

A Serb majority would hin-

der the resettlement of Cro-atians, Muslims and others who fied and who are entitled to return under the Dayton

Before the war, there were 68,000 Serbs and 125,000 ethnic Croatians. Hungarians, Muslims and other ethnic groups in Eastern Slavonia. But only a few hundred non-Serbs, most elderly and in-

Rebel Serbs captured a third of Croatia in 1991 but last year Croatian troops, in a series of attacks, retook most of the Serbian-held territory, driving more than 200,000

HE 150,000 Serbs in Slavonia and Serbian-held Eastern Slavonia are Bosnia.

Serb leaders in Eastern Slavonia continue to issue defi-ant and vitriolic statements against Croatia, a sign that the hostility which led to war in 1991 after Croatia declared independence will continue to threaten prospects for endur ing peace. In recent days Croatian offi-

cials have warned that, if the Serbs in Eastern Slavonia try to scuttle the peace agree-ment. Croatia's army will seize the region by force. Croatla's foreign minister, Mate Granic, warned that any obstruction or delay in carrying out the deal "would be tanta mount to the prospect of a renewed conflict".

renewed connect.

Eastern Slavonia, a region of about 100 square miles bordering Serbia, with fertile plains and oil, is due to be handed back to Croatia by the Serbs within a year — al-though this deadline can be extended by another year. But what is set down on

paper has yet to be accepted by most people in the region, about 80,000 of whom were driven from their homes in other parts of Croatia.

The United States ambass dor to Croatia, Peter Galbraith, who met local residents on Tuesday, was



During the transition period, the United Nations will administer the region, backed by 5,000 troops. of the war's most savage fight-ing when Belgrade ordered its army to attack shortly after Croatia declared indepen-

Vukovar, defended for three months by Croatian troops, suffered more damage from tank fire and heavy shelling than any other city in the former Yugoslavia. Large sections of the city were reduced to rubble.

dence in June 1991.

Serbs there — like the Croats who were driven out — have suffered, and most are in no mood for reconciliation.

'My five children and I were driven out of our home in Croatia at the beginning of the war," said Jorka Dusanovic, aged 46. "We now live in a house that once belonged to a Croat. How is it that he will e allowed to come back and throw me and my children out on the street, but no one will force the Croats to let me

go back to my home? Factories lie abandoned, and farmland is covered with and mines. Most of the buildings are gutted. Groups of angry, dispirited

young men, many demobi-lised from the army, mill about the muddy streets with little to do. About 600 police officers from Belgrade keep

block the roads leading out of the enclave to prevent an exodus into Serbia. The Serbs in Eastern Slavo-

nia insist that there will be ways to roll back the Dayton

"Croatia Serbs expelled from the Krajina (region in southern Croatia) and other areas to return to their homes," Slavko Dokmanovic, Vukovar's mayor. "This is part of this peace agreement. If they do not, and the Croatian authorities are still allowed to been cheated by the international community." — New

new round of industrial stoppages

Alex Duval Smith in Paris

AS France faces a new round of industrial action, the government yesterday attempted to pass the buck to employers by lambasting them for not creating

Communist-led CGT in calling for a week of action starting on Monday to protest at changes to the welfare system and to press for a shorter

In the build-up to the demonstrations and limited ston pages, the prime minister, Alain Juppé, alienated the employers confederation by accusing businesses of pocketing job-creation grants without shortening dole

Inspired by an outburst last week by President Jacques Chirac. Mr Juppe said: "We will not further reduce enployers' social charges unless we feel we are getting some-thing for something, such as a massive pledge to employ

young people."
The chairman of the employers' confederation, Jean Gandois, retorted: "I have had enough of hearing about presents to industry when many are fighting for survival."

Mr Juppe's war of words

with employers has intensi-fied since the publication on Wednesday of record unemployment figures: 11.7 per cent, or just above 3 million. In Marseille, 23 per cent of under-25s are unemployed.

Economists blame the increase in joblessness - up by 57,000 in November and December — on bankruptcies caused by last year's strikes. Unions privately concede that they do not expect to inspire the same degree of mo-bilisation as they did in the

face of Mr Juppe's plan last Nevember to cut spending on health and social security. But a CGT spokesman said: "The French are unpredictable. We should reserve judgment until after the first demonstration, by public sector workers in Paris on Tuesday.

On Thursday, workers from all unions at the Giat Industries defence group will stop work for two hours. The government is considering moves which could cost up to

The week of action will end on February II with a demonstration in Paris. Metro and bus workers in the capital. who are considering a pay offer, say they may strike at the end of the week.

Germany to propose postpon-ing the planned move to a Meanwhile, two months of negotiations over working conditions at Air Inter, the state-owned domestic airline, University near Brussels, the have just collapsed. notice that the pace of Euro-

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through "a period of uncer-tainty" but he insisted that "the policy of European inte-Cipen N. Public. SUNDAYS 10.38-5.30 aced dare inchnice or the confer The definition exclusion of HAND-MADE RUGS for the 21st century". He stressed that: "It is no use following the ostrich policy." Phr: makh Russah PAINTINGs and ongus TRANKS at a traction of most pro-Sender of the Fire Art Fishe Gold

France faces Hard-core drug explosion kicks Athens into action

The fastest growing rate of addiction in Europe has forced the government to change its policy, writes Helena Smith

EFORE Billo came to 40
Eressou Street she had
given up hope in life.
For two years she had waited for the clinic in the grimy Athens back street to open. By the time it did, last week creating the Organisation she had lost her last "good vein" and was sniffing the heroin that had brought her

Now she houses to be one of thousands of hard-core Gree drug users who can kick the habit with the help of methawhich has just been officially introduced to the country.

"I'm 36 and never thought I'd reach the age of 50," the British-born former secretary said, rubbing her glazed eyes. "I'd tried every possible cure and had my 'off periods but always turned to 'gear' again. I was a prisoner and now I'm starting to feel free."

Its location at the cross-roads of Europe and Asia and its long coastline have long made Greece a significant en-trepot for drugs, but it was from drug use. In the last few years, however, it has developed Europe's fastest growing rate of hard-core addiction.

It has 100,000 heroin addicts in a population of 10 million, compared to the 20,000 cur-rently registered in the Netherlands, whose population is half as blg again. Heroin deaths have risen from five in 1980 to 87 in 1990 and 180 last year. The increase has caused widespread dismay, not least among the poor, where drug abuse is said to have assumed epidemic proportions.

John Palmer in Brussels

HANCELLOR Helmut

Kohl issued a veiled warning to the British

government yesterday that it should not try to deflect other

European Union countries from moving ahead to mone-

cal union.

tary union and closer politi-

His remarks will be seen as

direct rebuke to senior Brit-

ish figures, including the for-

mer Foreign Secretary, Doug-las Hurd, who have asked

In an address at Louvain

German chancellor served

pean integration would not be

set by those who wanted to

slow progress to closer union. Mr Kohl said the single cur-

rency project was going

gration actually comes down to a question of peace or war

The chancellor did not men- | keeping others out."

single currency in 1999.

After years of ignoring it, the authorities have finally begun to tackle the problem. Last year the Socialist goverument allocated the bis part of its welfare budget to

Against Narcotics (Okana), to administer an annual 2 billion drachma drug prevention programme after Britain adopted the substitute, it began methadone programmes in Athens and

The two centres comple ment an array of closed and controversial "therapeutic communities" where addicts are forced to take the harsh

"drug-free" treatment. "Drug addiction is our biggest social problem and it's getting worse every year," said Christos Kokkoris, a neurologist and psychiarist who heads the Athens programme.

"Being a very conservative society, we were very slow in developing ways of dealing with it. People thought it was far too radical for the state to employ the ultimate measure of substitution treatment." Since he began the pilot

programme, Dr Kokkoris's telephone has not stopped ringing. Its 200 places were oversubscribed almost the day it was announced.

"Fifteen years ago I was accused of being crazy when I advocated the use of methadone." he said. "Now parents

who are desperate to get their children in here call all the

The alarming rise in teenage addiction - a recent sur-

Britain gets EU warning

tion the British government

by name, but it was clear whom he had in mind. "Dur-

ing the next few years we will have to prove that a viable Europe can be built with 15 and more states," he said.
"The slowest ship in the con-

voy should not be allowed to determine its speed. If indi-

vidual partners are not pre-

pared or able to participate in certain steps towards integra-

tion, the others should not be

denied the opportunity to

move forward."

Mr Kohl was referring not

only to British moves to slow

monetary union, but more generally to British opposi-

tion to measures to strengthen political decision-making in the EU. These

issues will be at the heart of

next month's inter-govern-

mental conference in Turin to

review the Maastricht treaty.

many's commitment to a radi-

cal enlargement of the EU to

eastern Europe; "I would

regard it as a disaster if Europe's strength were to di-

However, I would find it di-

sastrous if Europe were only

able to ensure its strength by

Mr Kohl underlined Ger-

vey showed that one in three pupils had experimented with drugs — has spurred the gov-ernment into adopting a

In the autumn teachers and municipal workers began three-month training course so that they can counsel children in school hours.

that we do this now if we are next decade." said Stephanos Manikas, who chairs Okana. developed, drugs have got kids regularly taking 'weekend' ecstasy pills in night clubs across the country

drug-related sentences. Many during the summer months.

that they make no distinction between soft and hard drugs,

began to be treated as pa-tients and not criminals. You

"It's absolutely essential

But many believe that real headway can be made only when Athens relaxes its stringent anti-drug laws, which prohibit doctors treating addicts.

They have been blamed for the overcrowded jails, 60 per cent of whose inmates, for-eign and Greek, are serving are arrested on the islands where local addicts and traffickers traditionally flock

In recent years several Brit-ish tourists caught in posses-sion of soft drugs have been given heavy prison terms.
"The laws are so repressive

or addicts, drug dealers and non-addict users," said Dr Kleanthis Grivas, a psychia-trist. "They are directly linked to Greece's dramatic increase in drug trafficking, drug use, and drug addiction. "It's high time that addicts

only have to look at Britain and Holland to see that it

He denounced the "current

fashion to exude pessimism" about monetary union and

European integration: "Have

Europeans become tired of Europe again? I do not believe

this is really the case." He said the path to closer union set out in the Maastricht treaty calls for a considerable

effort on everybody's part. Senior German government

officials say there is no ques-tion of Mr Kohl or President

Chirac raising the issue of postponing the 1999 deadline for monetary union in Turin.

British government sources said last week that the entire

monetary union project would face a "credibility cri-sis" within months.

that if the Maastricht review conference were to fail, "it will take considerably longer

than one generation before

we are given such an opportu-nity again". In spite of the Government's declared oppo-

sition, he reiterated his sup-

port for more majority vote decisions — even in areas of foreign policy and security — as well as a greater role for

the European Parliament.

In his address Mr Kohl said

Action men . . . Strikers leave the Yesaulskaya pit near Novokutznets after carrying our essential maintenance

Minister warns of catastrophe as Russian coal strike continues

THE Russian government met mining industry leaders yesterday on the second day of a national coal strike in protest at de-layed wages to try to limit the economic and political

damage. Miners in Ukraine and

of market reforms.

Romania also struck to de-mand measures to soften the impact on the industry

The Russian coalmining monopoly Rosugol said six strike since it began on Thursday, bringing the total to 124, Interfax news agency said. Thirteen opencast mines had resumed work, leaving 14 still out, it said. Union leaders said 80 per cent of the industry, which employs 750,000

The first deputy prime minister, Vladimir Kadanmore pits had joined the nikov, a former car factory boss handed a troubleshooting role within days of his appointment, met management and union leaders to try to dispel tensions.

Vitaly Budko, leader of the miners union Rosugle-profsoyuz, said Mr Kadannikov had promised mea-

at the beginning of next week. But Vladimir Katalnikov a miners union member, told fellow MPs that meeting was unsuccessful

and the strike would go on. The fuel and energy minis-ter, Yuri Shafranik, told MPs: "Even a one-hour stop-page of all the coal and elec-tric sectors would inevitably

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Tajik army halts coup attempt' by rebel troops

leutêr in Dushanbe

yesterday pushed back a mutinous army force that had dvanced towards the capital. Dushanbe, to press demands for the dismissal of the gov-ernment of the central Asian former Soviet republic.

Eyewitnesses said the rebel Colonel Makhmoud Khudoyberdyev had retreated to a mountain pass after advanc-ing to within 10 miles of the city and being confronted by pro-government soldiers and

There was no fighting as the rebels, who remain loyal to the Tajik president, Imomali Rakhmonov, were reluctant to fight the presi-dential guards and irregulars, the witnesses said.
The rebels are now camped

about 20 miles from Dushanbe, but they have not dropped demands for the sacking of a government they condemn as incompetent and

corrupt.
President Rakhmonov, who was supported by Col Khu-doyberdyev during the civil Monthly Restal \$15 (\$12.77 + YAT) war in 1992, told parliament that the rebels' action amounted to an attempted OTT Plants Codes 20p per min (17p + YAT) Peak times 8.00-19.00 Mon to fri Mandatory itemised billings charged at \$1.77 mc VAT per month. Line rental debited monthly in advancel and arrians chapes will be debited to your normated credit charge or Dels cant. Calls charged in units of 30 seconds after the first menute. military coup.

But he said he would meet

them for talks if they gave up their weapons and surren-dered. He also suggested he was ready to sack some ministers to avert violence. "Everything must be done to avoid bloodshed,"

agency. In Washington, the state department warned United States citizens not to travel to Tajikistan because of the crisig IIS citizens inside the country were told to stay at

Rakhmonov was quoted as saying by Interfax news

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Anatomy

Unloved and underfunded - the once fearsome military machine of the Soviet era has collapsed, forcing nationalists to fire the only salvoes they have left against the West: threats. David Hearst in Moscow reports on their emergent doctrine

ligence circles which would Nato to the three Baltic states a cause for war.
One senior defence analyst

the author of a draft national security doctrine that could well be put into practice under a new president — said: "Accepting the Relities into National States." Baltics into Nato would be as provocative to us as the deployment of nuclear missiles on Cuba was to Washington. Accepting Poland and Hungary into Nato means a cold peace, while an enlargement to include the Baltics is war."

The doctrine being elabo-rated by the independent and highly influential Institute of Defence Studies in Moscow determines the territory of the former Soviet Union as the zone of "basic Russian national interests". The army's main task would not only be the defence of national territory and the territorial integrity of the Russian Federa-tion, but the defence of the rights of 25 million Russians in the "near abroad".

Russia's potential adversaries are defined as the United States and Nato. Their main allies are defined as Ukraine, China and Iran.

Anton Surikov is a research fellow at the institute and is an aide to Yuri Maslukov, the former politburo member and a key figure in Russia's military-industrial complex who has reemerged as chairman of the economic committee in the Duma (parliament).

Mr Surikov said: "The more radical points of this document must be seen as responsive measures if the position of the West develops into the worst scenario for Russia. The Baltic states can play a very good role as bridge between Russia and the West. But it cannot be zone where Nato infrastructures are to be deployed.

"If Nato began its evolution towards a political structure, that would be another thing but today what we have is the real possibility of Nato military infrastructures moving towards our borders and this is what provokes concern. All the talk of Russian aggressiveness is a bluff. The West really understands that Russia is technically in no position to invade."

The growing weakness of Russian conventional forces, graphically illustrated by their inability after 14 months to crush just 6,000 separatist fighters in Chechenia, is making the military planners of a nationalist Russia even more reliant upon the country's nuclear deterrent.

Without the satellite states in Central and Eastern Europe, Russian generals see themselves in a position anal-ogous to Western Europe at the height of Soviet military power. Outgunned by the overwhelming might of Nato's conventional forces, Russia would have to rely on nuclear weapons as its main deterrent. The concept of national compete for resources.

NEW concept of national security is emerging in senior Russian military. Russian military, vice-president of the Acad-political and interest of the Acad-pol emy of Military Science, is a retired Major-General and an authority on Russian military doctrine and its reform.

Professor Slipchenko said: "On the territory of potential Nato members, a potential military theatre is being prepared with a network of air-ports, communications and command systems. We are looking with concern at how Hungarian airports are being used by Nato for the opera-

tion in Bosnia." Since the end of the Soviet Union, the Russian army has seen itself as on the regreat. Its size has gone from more than 4 million men to 1.5 million. Its best equipped and trained units once stationed in Germany, Poland and the Baltics have been withdrawn and, with no place to house them, disbanded.

Many of the second-rate units that were already stationed in Russia remained untouched. They have now become undermanned, under-funded and in no condition to go into service. Many units have 20 per cent fewer offi-cers than they need to operate

'Accepting Poland and **Hungary to** Nato means a cold peace - while an enlargement to include the Baltics is war.'

at battle strength. At the rank of "proporshik", the Russian equivalent of sergeant, the degree of undermanning rises to 30 per cent and, in the ranka, some units are operat ing at 50 per cent below battle

The problem with having housands of units operating under strength creates bizarre sights. Senior officers are often seen doing soldiers' jobs: at the controls of a tank, or even operating the lift to the control bunker of an airdefence unit in Moscow.

One of the Russian soldiers killed trying to stop the Che-chen commandos escaping from the Dagestani border village of Pervomayskaya was an officer of the rank of colo-nel. He was leading a unit of only 20 or so men — doing a lientenant's lob.

Reformers do not have a problem with numbers. They argue the ideal size of a mod ern, professional Russian army should be about 1 million. There are, in fact, cur-rently about 5 million men under arms: apart from the armed forces, under General Pavel Grachev, rival services

security elaborated by the institute, extreme though it appears, is not redically at former parliament in October Rate At decade of the cline, this mood is bound to take, at least initially, an anti-

quagmire in Chechenia, Russia's president, Boris Yeltsin, has grown to rely upon interior ministry (MVD) forces. In consequence, the MVD "army" has burgeoned to

about 300,000 men. There is now talk of it getting its own tanks and helicopter gurships. Prof Slipchenko says the chaos caused by rivalry between enforcement ministries goes all the way to the top: "We have a plethora of enforcement structures, but we don't have a united armed forces of the Russian Federation. Everyone, particularly the Russian mass media, has been blaming the army for the lack of reforms — but this is unfair. The defence minis try can't reorganise itself without a complex of measures by the state which take in all the other enforcement ministries and the military-

industrial complex." "There were attempts to present the cutbacks in troops, and the withdrawal from many territories, as reforms, but this has nothing have just been left to take care of themselves. Everyone has forgotten about them. The president had given them nelher a plan nor money."

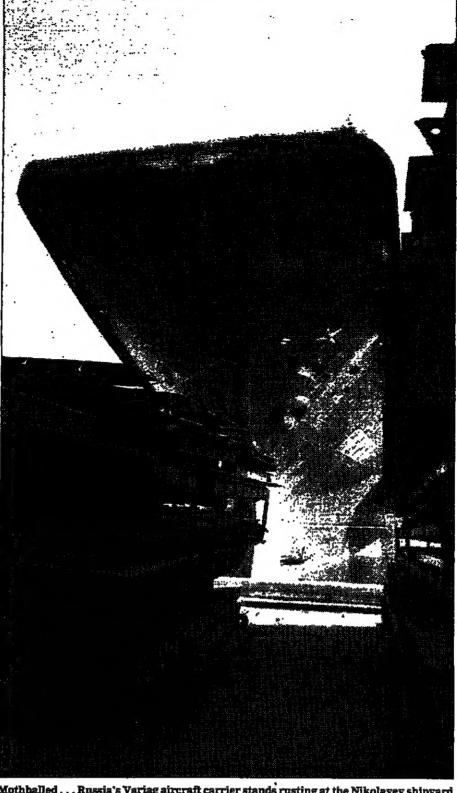
Not all branches of the armed forces are embroiled in chaos. There are well pre-pared and equipped land and air-defence units, and well trained and guarded strategic rocket force units. But the underfunding of the army is a fact of life. In 1994 it actually received just 46 per cent of the money allocated to it by parliament, in 1995 just 50 per cent and this year just 70 per cant. This means that it has only got money for the first seven months of this year and, thereafter, could poten-tially grind to a halt.

Three years ago Prof Slipchenko saw the opposition first hand when he visited Fort Sill, in Oklahoma. There, he spoke to a US soldier man-ning a saif-propelled gun. "That man had served for 18 years — he was like a pro-fessor," he said. "He knew

everything about his gun. How can you compare him to script, spending a year and a balf in the army? Its like chalk and cheese. An Ameri-can soldier earns about \$800 (£500) a month. This is more than the salary of Russia's defence minister."

The absence of political leadership is demoralising. Anton Surikov of the defence institute said: "One of the main problems of the army is the fact that their command-er-in-chief, Yeltsin, considers the armed forces not as a means of defence of the country, but of himself. As he now considers that the army is less loyal to him, a very big part of the budget now goes to the Ministry of the Interior." It is calculations such as these - as well as hitter expe-

rience of war in the North Cancaigns - that is the real doctrine in which Russia once again faces the fact that it can depend on no one but itself. After a decade of de-cline, this mood is bound to



Mothballed . . . Russia's Variag aircraft carrier stands rusting at the Nikolayev shipyard in the Ukraine, the symbol of a former power in vertiginous decline PHOTOGRAPH A KREMKO

The armed forces Who's in charge? First Deputy Defence Minister Chief of General Staff Soviet Union had biggest general supposed to be 1.7 many missiles are milkan, probably 1.5 active, estimated 700force in the world with 800. Single and

milian pecauso of

Combat infantos vehicles: 19,000

camers: 16,000 Comba!

somo 300 vegsols Many of its nuclea mesies powered submarinos Stratogic aircraft Tuare not now bomber, and the are thought to be just supersonic Tu 160. 13 modern nuclearwith ballistic missiles

150 - half of which are still in Ukraine and Kazakhsian, Russia expecting to get them used for three years)

> scrapped, and the third, the Vanua (shown left) has been lyvng rusting but incomplete Of the four other kiew class VSTOL aircraft carriers, built in the

There is no reliable

estimate of working

one keel has been

laid since 1991. Only

one of three modern

aircraft camers is in

service, the other was

The fleet is

Ministry of the Interior Interior Minister: General Anatoli Kulikov, Police n

about one million, of whose troops - possibly 300,000 plus,

Federal Security Service Head of the FSB: Gen Mikhail Barsu Presdential Security

Ministry of Emergency Situations

CHINA is to pay Russia Cmore than £1.3 billion for a licence and the equipment needed to produce the modern Su-27 fighter, the Trace Control of the State of t E TO STATE OF THE head of the Russian air

(Rates guaranteed until 1st April 1996)

A POSTAL ACCOUNT

Anatomy of a battlefield disaster

James Meek in Moscow examines the symbolic shambles of the Dagestani siege

F ALL those who took part in one of the sorri-est disasters in Russian military history, the cow can be said with the most cer-tainty to have been innocent. Shortly before the first Russian attack on the Dagestani village of Pervomayskaya where Chechen separatists holding hostages had dug in - the desperate commander of a platoon of paratroopers ordered to hold a large and vitally important stretch of open country blocking the rebels' escape route begged an infantry unit to lend him an armoured car. They did.

When the assault began at 9am, the gumner tried to test its cannon on the first moving target he saw — a cow. After firing three clips he realised the cannon had not been ranged properly. Before he could decide what to do about it, the Chechens blew the vehicle up with an anti-tank

rocket.
Trying, and failing to kill ruminants with borrowed guns — it was an inauspicious start for an operation where in Russia's favour but where were paratroopers and motor-200 well-led, motivated guer-ised infantry conscripts. all the odds should have been 200 well-led, motivated guer- issu intrained —, if they were lage had been supposed to Boris Yeltsin losing face.

It was clear from the begin-ning of the siege of Pervo-mayskaya that the federal troops wanted to force a reso-lution of the hostage drama. But in the four days before the attack, while the Chechens were digging the deeptrench system and charging (on mains electricity) the talkies which would so con-found their enemies, the Russians were tying themselves

in knots. A host of diverse units from all over Russia — with no ex-perience of working together — were rushed to the scene and deposited in flat, open, snow-covered fields, scoured by icy winds, without food, clothing, shelter or adequate means of communicating

with each other.

There were police SOBR units (a kind of Swat team) from as many as eight different regions. Their usual job is to arrest groups of armed criminals in big cities. There was the Alpha anti-terrorist unit, trained to rescue groups of hostages from aircraft, buses or buildings. There trained at all — to fight Nato | look like according to Soviet in a future conflict. There | planners. were artillerymen, trained to shell grid positions on maps. There were helicopter gun-ship crews, trained to shoot up villages in Chechenia and

Afghanistan. In charge of them all was General Mikhail Barsukov, a former KGB officer and now in charge of its successor, the federal security service — a man who had built his career organising bodyguards for VIPs.

Throughout the build up to the assault, and the subse-quent operation — which ended only when the Chechen leader, Salman Raduyev, his fighters and a large number of their captives slipped through the sloppy cordon and escaped — many of the Russian troops were cold, hungry and isolated.

One interior ministry soldier said all he had eaten in four days was a loaf of bread and four tins of sprats. Of the 50 members of the Moscow SOBR unit, four were

killed in the fighting, 13 were injured and 20 were hospital-ised with frostbite and Only senior unit commanders had maps of Pervomayskaya, and these were not really maps at all but poor photocopies of what the vii-

China to make

Flanker fighter

force, Pyotr Deynekin, said

yesterday, writes James

Nato by the codename "Flanker" — was first de-ployed in 1984 and is now

one of the mainstays of

Russian air defences. But it

also has the ability to

news agency comes at a time of increased tension between China and Taiwan

Beijing is already buying 50 Su-27s off the shelf from Russia, and Taiwan has res-ponded by ordering French

of more than 900 miles. The announcement reported by the Interfax

The batteries for the radio headsets of the SOBR and Alpha units quickly gave out when the attack began, and there was nowhere to recharge them. There were no spares.

Even when radios worked, frequencies were never prop-erly allocated and units had to communicate either through relays of up to four Despite the chaos, SOBR units did manage to penetrate

deep inside the village, and it remains a mystery why they did not establish a bridgehead - presumably because they had not expected such losse and were not prepared for hand-to-hand fighting. As in the battle for Grozny

the Chechen capital, the troops on the ground had little or no control over air and artillery support which was as much a danger to them as to the enemy. A village filled with dug-in

armed fighters and randomly located civilian hostages was an exceptionally difficult tac-tical objective if federal troops had any intention of saving the captives. Perhaps the worst mistake the Russians made was choosing to attack instead of negoti-ating a withdrawal. But that would have meant President Minimum investment of only £5,000 Choice of monthly income on investments of £15,000 or more

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Win to get it right again

Ken Oliver

URING the last six years three classy Flat performers, Kri bensis. Royal Gait transformed into champion hurdlers and there is a confi-dent mood at Richard Hannon's Marlborough stable that Right Win will join this elite band.

A smart middle-distance runner on the level, Right Win made an impressive hurdling debut at Sandown last month and he returns to the Esher track this afternoon to boost his big race claims in the AGFA Hurdle.

Hannon will not be braving the cold, he is sunning himself in Barbados, but the horse has been under the astute care of ex-jockey Steve Knight, who says: "He's in tremendous form. All being well, the next stop will be the Kingwell Hurdle at Wincanton on February 22 and then Cheltenham.

The smart money was down for the Champion Hurdle be-fore Right Win made his jumping bow at Sandown and after he thrashed Strong

like about that first performance and I expect him to Handicap.

confirm Knight's confidence. The Tote Bookmakers Handicap Hurdle has been Roberty Lea's long term objective and Mary Reveley's three years ago, and the fast | coughing.

has won his last three races in tremendous style.

Roberty Lea (4.10) is a tough customer who is well suited to Sandown's uphill finish, winning here last sea-son when beating King Luci-fer by eight lengths over

today's trip.
The uphill climb will also be tailor-made for Paddy's Return (1.20) in the opening Ripley Four Year Old Novice Hurdle.

After winning his first two races at Sedgefield and Ascot in November, Paddy's Return did not enjoy the best of runs when chasing home Sover-eign Parade at Haydock. He is Hurdle and a victory would book his Cheltenham ticket. David Nicholson could take

two of the three chases on the card with Martin's Lamp and Percy Smollett. Martin's Lamp (1.50) ran a cracking race in the Victor Chandler at Ascot last month. He appeared to have the spoils sewn up when turning for home with a clear lead. but was overtaken on the runin and beaten one and a haif lengths by Big Matt, who was receiving 11b.

after he thrashed Strong
Promise by five lengths the
3's was reduced to 10-1.
With the classy Atours in
opposition, today's race is the
acid test for Right Win
(3.00), but there was much to tler in the AGFA Diamond

• The clash between Gold Cup winners Jodami and Master Oats in tomorrow's Hennessy at Leopardstown will not materialise for eight-year-old is preferred to trainer Peter Beaumout Trainglot, who won this race reports that Jodami is



Festival team . . . Noel Chance with Mr Mulligan, his favourite for next month's Sun

Tales of Oz, the Pope and Guinness testing

Chris Hawkins meets Noel Chance. the trainer who lives up to his name

HE name Noel T. Chance has a Run-yonesque ring about it and no doubt this Irishman, who loves a bet and is in his first season training in this country, would have appealed to the great American writer and

horse-player. Chance has a colourful turn of phrase himself and nows the racing game upside down, having learned a lot about horses and gam-

bling in Australia.

Aged 44, he has yet to make the big time and first impressions of his small yard in Upper Lambourn suggest he has some way to

But a steeplechaser called Mr Mulligan, unbeaten in favourite for the Sun Alli-ance Chase at Cheltenham, might do it for him. Chance has been set up by

horse-mad Martin Worces-ter, a man who has made a fortune out of ice-cres cones. Worcester has had horses with Kim Bailey, Oliver Sherwood and Malcolm Jefferson, but Chance, who is paid a salary, is his only trainer now and the two work closely.

"Martin comes down at least twice a week," said Chance. "He likes to be really involved from plan-ning the borses' races to hosing them down. He's got 10 here with me and likes a bet, but we're not running a gambling yard. Every-thing tries all the time."

Chance is talking while leaning against the wall of his Portakabin office, which boasts two wooden chairs, a rickety desk and a small electric heater failing conspicuously to cope with a cold, frosty morning. This is definitely not Bal-

lydoyle, but not everyone can by an M. V. O'Brien. Chance is steeped in the game. He served his time with Sir Hugh Nugent near Dublin, but went into Irish racing "without a shilling and came out with less."

"Besides having no money I was fed up with the bloody cold winters and decided to go to Australia." he explained.

he explained.

"I was single at the time and tried to go out on the £10 assisted passage, but the ticket was taking its time to come through and as they were closing Australia on January I — from then on you'd need a visa — I scraped up £200 and paid for myself. "When I got there on New

Year's Eve I had £6 in all choirboy.

"He had me up at 4s.m.
every day and was never
satisfied. I stuck it two
weeks and moved on to
Neville Begg at Randwick.

badly, I decided to come home. After a year as headlad to Clem Magnier, I now had enough to start up my-self, only for the Pope to mess things up.
"I was training at Phoe

£5,000. So, missing Ireland

nix Park, but then the Pope came over and they requisi-tioned the gallops for a mass religious meeting and you couldn't use them after — left them full of holes, they did, so I went to the Curragh."
Chance did not have a lot

of winners — a regular dozen or so a season — but had them all well backed. One season he had six first-time-out bumper winners and his reputation for shrewdness grew; hence the approach last spring from Worcester, whom he had never met in his life. Summer jumping in Eng-

land he sees as ripe for ex-ploitation, but the prize money on the Flat will be a temptation he cannot ignore.
"I'll probably have half a

dozen on the Flat, but I much prefer jumping and the people in it," he said. "They're real sportsmen. I mean, you could never the world. I got a job meet anyone more obnox-quickly enough but with a man, Vic Thompson, who made Hitler look like a whether you agree with meet anyone more obnox-

this assessment or not Chance is on solid ground when it comes to horses and Guinness. "I know a good pint and

Neville Begg at Randwick. I'm the tester for my local He was a great fella and I at East Garston — if I don't became his travelling head- like it they don't sell it. And lad.
"I had a few touches and after five years had saved I'm not joking either."

Sandown card with form guide

2.35 Percy Smollet

4.10 ROBERTY LEA (Nam)

.20 MPLEY FOUR YEAR OLD MOVICE HURDLE DIS 110/44 CS.556 31F222 OCEAN HAWK (18) (D) N Twelton-Device 11-5 - 112 PACOY'S RETURN (49) (D) (RF) F Morph, 11-6 - 1110 REVELLON (73) C Van Der Rocke 11-6 - 1 MISTINGUIST (2.1) (D) N Twelton-Dawes 11-3 CLARESWAN (73) M Tomplum 11-0 - 1 CLARESWAN (73) M Tomplum 11-0 - 2 MR CHRISTIE (24) Mass 1, Seddel 11-0 - 2 MR CHRISTIE (24) Mass 1, Seddel 11-0 - 1 CRISTIE (25) Mass 1, Seddel 11-0 - 1 CRISTIE (25) Mass 1, Seddel 11-0 - 1 CRISTIE (26) Mass 1, Seddel 11-0 CRISTIE (26

SHEAGARESQUE (28) P Alerohy 71-0

3 SAREP (17) R Hospes 11-0

5 TILAAL (21) M Hammond 11-0

P CREATWAY LADY (85) (2) MES A Ember 180 TREAT P PAS (10-10)

GULTURAL SQUE P Matchell 10-10 Figure 10-1 Saidy

Top Forest Tribs: Pooley's Return-10, Ocean Hawk 6, Bistinguett 6

Betting: 11-4 Pags, 5 Reur. 7-2 Ocean Hawk 9-2 Mashinguett, 6-1 Debutsnie Days, 6-1 Claimswan, 10-1

Pagsanet-aux, 12-1 Saidy

16 russeen

Project CILIDS - PALODYS RETURNED Held on unproved four out, hampered next, manake has out, ran on, on the 5 Serveright Parade trievated the hole goods. Occasion MARTIC Convolution through con label star shaped leader, every chance 2 out, not quicken, 111 2nd or 3 shapes to 15 Zebud with MARTICAL JEWEL rect 10th, failed off, distance less frempion 2m, Gd) REVELLORN German coll successary in Iris 3 starts over hundred. Programmen out successary in Iris 3 starts over hundred. Programmen out successary in Iris 3 starts over hundred. Programmen out successary in Iris 3 starts over hundred. Programmen out successary in Iris 3 starts over hundred. Programmen out successary in Iris 3 starts over hundred. Programmen out successary in Iris 3 starts over hundred. Programmen out successary in Iris 3 starts over hundred. Programmen out successary in Iris 1 starts over hundred. Programmen out successary in Iris 1 starts over hundred. Programmen out successary in Iris 1 starts over hundred out in Iris 1 starts over hundred. Programmen out successary in Iris 1 starts over hundred. Programmen out successary in Iris 1 starts over hundred. Programmen out successary in Iris 1 starts over hundred. Programmen out success out the Iris 1 starts over hundred. Programmen out succession of the Iris 1 starts over hundred. Programmen out succession of the Iris 1 starts over hundred. Programmen out succession of the Iris 1 starts over hundred. Programmen out succession out the Iris 1 starts over hundred. Programmen out succession out the Iris 1 starts over hundred. Programmen out succession out the Iris 1 starts over hundred. Programmen out succession out the Iris 1 starts over hundred. Programmen out succession out the Iris 1 starts over hundred. Programmen out succession out the Iris 1 starts over hundred. Programmen out succession out the Iris 1 starts over hundred. Programmen out succession out the Iris 1 starts over hundred. Programmen out succession out the Iris 1 starts over hundred. Programmen out succession out the Iris 1 starts o

1.50 GUILDFORD FLAMES HANDICAP CHASE 250 COLO73 1273-1: MARTHY'S LAMP (21) (0) D Nobelson 3-12-0 11119- SOUND REVELLE (224) (CD) C Brooks 8-11-6 71127- SPRES CROSS (344) (CD) NH'S D Mane 10-11-1 32-114 KERNEET (21) (D) P Hobbs 9-10-13

**POTEM CHINDS - MARTINGS LAMBY Good effort loal time ether led until headed and not quicken flat, 19 2nd of 8 non-tens to by Man with MRREET (rec. 20%), chased leader to hallway, one pace from a cut, 184 An. a to make BARON, i.e. 189), some headway 6 out 5 sour respected, 49 Thi (Ascot 2m, Gd-5m). Solline REVIELLES for some out series autocoded at Chettenburn Festival within made all, ran on well, won 2. 18. 19 and Caston, 9 and Chettenburn 2m M Str. Series Cookes Lart (an in Festivalry 1996 when led to 6 cut, wolknowd, 2rd of J bith 19 to Thambs Up acception of the page.

mengerogim, wys. T**HAS WORT WA**IT) the pretein chaser on labor that boodway approaching last, strong run to lead tal. 121 on perity 41 from Peaceman 6 ran (kemptan Jim, Cat). K**HAS CRESCO**S (224) 2 with un labor thank in louch when half 5 run in race wen by **Mester Boston**, 7 ran RONVERTA EMICE had here out awar December 1931 when led hallway is son clear, won easily by 21 from 50° out 4 ran sharmsham (m. 35-5)n

2.25 SCILLY ISLES HOVICE CHASE 2m 47 110yds 021,554

6, No Pain No Cam : Pair Nr. Cam (-1 Nomero, 6-1 Temperceds: 10-1 Senor El Betrub 7 mander Probes Custode - Ambiest Prof. Ritigings (vol. notion up) imported always in booth notion to challenge lost. 6. To real Analysis in white (3) have 44 Short for an (Warwaca) amode, 3d Sh) in a second probability of the challenge lost. Beginning Professing in which charge, an interest and in Laddonde Handle, kept on one pace from 3 out, dated (1) in which (in 15) is Discontinuous, an interest and the Laddonde Handle, kept on one pace from 3 out, dated (1) in which (in 15) is Discontinuous and the laddonde Handle (1) in the charge of the laddonde out to see by 15) in Dom Samourus, 16 mile on the charge of the laddonde out to see by 15) in Dom Samourus, 16 mile on the laddonde out to see by 15) in Dom Samourus, 16 mile out to be a laddonde out to see that the laddonde out to see the ladd

Leopardstown tomorrow

3.45 HERRESSY COGNAC GOLD CUP CHASE 3m \$48,750 5 MEMBERSY COGNAC BOLD CUP CHASE 3m CAS

2m (1) FISSING SSAL IN to Browned (m-1/m)

2m (1) FISSING SSAL I E Union (1-1/m)

(1) FIS HOPERAL CALL FIRQUE SUbserting 7-1/m)

(m-1/m) LIFE OF A LORD A P G. Buen 10-1/m)

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(m-1/m) LIFE OF A LORD A P G. Buen 10-1/m)

(m-1/m) MASTER OATS A BOLD (M-1/m)

(m-1/m) SON OF WAR Paper McCleary, 9-1/m)

(m) FI LOSHIAN A P G. Buen 7-11-9

lar Cuto S, Imperiol Call 7, Stanhing Steel 6

Betting: 6-4 Noster Oats 7-3 Mansieur Le Curk, 4-1 Imperial Call, 5-1 Life Ot A Lord, Flagning Steri, 25-1 Fagure Seal, Sin Of Way, 12-1 Aparle Leginan tion to the state of the state Northern Grey (10-1). 3, Kombacky (14-1) 5 ran 35.3. (T Naughton) Tote: £1.90; £1.90 (10.15.20 Dualf £5.00. £5.30. 3.00 (1m 49); 1, 88 MORIARTY, N Garloll (9-2); 2, Modest Hope (12-1); 2, Exclusion (25-2); 2, Modest Hope (12-1); 3, Exclusion (25-2); 3, Modest Hope (12-1); 3, Modest Hope (12-1

Results

2.00 (87): 1, SEEKING DESTINY, D R McCate (100-201a), 2, 98t of Bother (7-2), 3, Kind of Light (5-1); 7 ran % hd (Chapman) Tote (4,40, E2 10 E3 50 Qual F

RACEUNE 0891-168-168 SANDOWN | 101 | 201 | 301 | WETHERBY 102 202 302 LINGFIELD 103 203 303

120 220 320

3.00 (1m 49; 1, MR MORLARTY, N Gar-halo (9-2); 2, Modest Mope (12-11; 3, Ex-dission (25-1); 7-4 fav Ashover, 11 ran, 24, 2 / S Bowingt Tate (4 9); 61-40 (2 40, 63-50 Duai F. 613.00 GSF 636.50, Tricast Cl. 137-12 fno 628 80. 3.30 (1m 38); 1, BALIOS, 1 Weaver (7-2); 2, Oversande (13-1); 3, Reptoy (8-1) fav); 6 7 an, 142 (14 Johnston) Tote (23 50 51.60, 61 20 Duai F. (15 6); 65F 613 14 NSF Mul-nollande Lay LOSI-99 4-30 (17m): 1, TATIKA, G Milligan (10-1): 2, Kinschip Boy (9-4 lav), 3, Sea Spouse (33-1), 11 7-m, 25; 12, 16 Wraggi Tota: 10-50, (4-10-2-0), (10-10-10-16-16-18-7), CSF E32-81 7-more (589-23), 7-more (343-70), 3,468-90 1; 12,97-90, 00 - part won, (12,587-35 carried forward to Lingfield order

QUADPOT: (140 30, PLACEPOT: (307 80

SERIOR EI, METAUTTE Disappointed us Grade 2 event last time when outpaced and behind, pulled up before 2 cut in race won by Mr Multigen, 8 rain (Wetherthy Smitt, Go-Sa) TOTH NEUTOCOCK West by: in Grade 2 event last time when in touch until blandered 4 cut, not recover, last of 6, but 43 to Cortainly Strong (Assot 2n, Go-Sa)

3.00 AGFA HURDLE 2m 110pm £10,260

PORMI GUIDE - ATOLURE: Held up. hittlen to challenge run-in, ran on, bit 12 by Mystlv, with MOCRESH (in

November **MOLE BOARD:** Held up, weakened under presense runun, 131 4th io Collier Bay (Sandown 2m**S**, SIL) Channel 4

3.35 agfa diamond handicap chase am 11076 e16,840 U2-TUS YOUNG HUSTLER (26) (C) (0) N Testion-Dennes 9-12-0 ... C Misusia
11112-1 PERCY SHOULETY (22) (C) 0 N-drokson 8-10-10 ... A Magnite
180-59 AMTRAK EXPRESS (26) N Henderson 9-10-0 ... A Fittingens
190-114 YORKSHIRS CALLE (18) (CO) J GWard 10-10-7 ... A P NeCey
PORES TIPES Young Heatler 8, Parcy Smallett 7
logs (-4 Percy Smollett, 7-4 Young Hustler 0, 11-2 Amirab Express. 6-1 Yorkshirs Cale. 4 zees PORTIS GLIDE - YOUNG HUSTLERS fromment until led 10th, mistake and headed 12th, weakined 6 out. 25th Six of 7 betabers to One-Man (Sanction Smith, Go-Sh)
PERCY SHOULETT Headway 7 out, led approaching last, ran on well, won by 8th from Unguided Missalle Alexand Anal, Go-Sh)
ASSTRAK EXPRESS: Crossed led Sery until outpaced 3 out, led 2nd when hampered and unsessed ricer less ORE GALLE Les urtil bad mistake 8 out, sot rocover and tailed off, dissunce last of 4 kinsbers. Prince (Kenetion 3m Got)

Channel 4	
4.10 TOTE HOCKMAKERS SANDOWN HARDICAP HURBLE 2m of E27,	870
1 SP-4305 TOP SP99 (14) (CD) J Jenning 7-12-0	مستخدا است
25-172F DARK HOMEY (21) (CD) 3 Dow 11-11-10	A D Marchardy
3 40-53: TRICKLE LAD (22) F Murphy 7-11-9 4 413111 PHARAMEAR (21) D Micholson 8-11-8	A Manufre
■ 11,79-51 TREASURE AGAIN (22) Mrs M Jones 7-11-8	G Bradley
6 1105-10 HOPS AND POPS (21) R Ajner 9-11-7	P Heater (3)
6 03-7100 BELL STAFFEOY (21) C Broad 7-11-4	R Ferrent
9 111P -1 TRAINCLOT (21) (CD) J FitzGerald 9-11-1	4 Ustonia C Maude
11 106-244 FUZZY LOGIC (25) N Twiston-Davigs 8-11-0	C Lie rrelly s
12 P-12PC-6 DO BE HAVE (21) (D) Mrs J Pomen 8-10-13	W Marston
14 4-43:35 LUCKY BLUE (14) N Thomson 3-10-10	M A Fitzgeroid
18 11120 RUMAWAY PETE (52) At Pipe 6-10-6	D Bridgeriter
17 15-14 GROOVING (14) J Gifford 7-10-5	P Hide
18 17:15 23 OUTSET (21) (D) M Haramond 6-10-0 TOP FORM TIPS: Pharameter 8, Trainglet 7, Roberts Lea 8	Mr C Bemier (3)
Setting: 7-2 Pharanear 4-1 Traingion, 6-1 Trickle Lad. Treasure Again. Sparky Gayl	a, 10-1 Roberty Lau 16
receirs	

Tutow : Apact Shift (54-5tt, PHARAMERAN Intercovany hundler, practicel leaders with led going well 6 out, soon clear, each basely by 25t from Angelo's Druble 'Wat mot 2 m-34, 56-5ty TREABURE ARAMER Heart shape 4 cst. Led fait, redden out, won by \$1 from dathis, with TRECICE LAD I gave 6th, in Louch until washered 3 cst. 309 for Macco Sim, Gal-Sim. SOBERTY LIBER Stayed on 15 m3 cst. never nazire. 4th 91 bits 650, to Tecrnizor Galor Haydock 2m 51, TREABURE LAD Stayed on 15 m3 cst. never nazire. 4th 91 bits 650, to Tecrnizor Galor Haydock 2m 51, TREABURE LOTS Neverson; hathers, and less, held on well, won by so hid from Native Field (Newscate 2m 61, Oct.)

	annel 4	
-	O FEBRUARY MAIDEN HURDLE 2m of C3,178	
1	BATTLE LORD CISTO & Bucker 8-11-7	S Magleti
2.	3424F- BONDEFER (245) M #-Munson 7-11-7	P Crowley (?)
3	225-3FU FATHER POWER (79) P Hottes 8-11-7	Q Tormey (3)
4	52 FME STALKER (17) D Caro 8-11-7	D Gullagher
5	3- FRESHMANS ESSAY (611) P Webber 8-11-7	@ McCourt
	©4 GLITTER ISLE (14) J Giford 6-11-7	P Hide
7	DO-0 HEATON (17) H Roysell 9-11-7	
8	P2 LITTLE CHIROK (17) D Gressell 6-11-7	
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15	10-0 1048 MID (75) B Smart 5-11-7	C Literally *
15	3:02:-2 THE REVERSEND BERT (21) G Bakking B-11-7	A PROOF
17	F TWO GOOD JUDGES (72) S Stermood 6-11-7	Q Bradley
15	3C-3 WELL ARRANGED (14) A Malteret 5-11-7	A Maguire
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	ARRANGEDE in teach until weatened quickly 3 out, pulled up before n on, 2m5, Gdf.	end in race won by Jal Rules

Brighter outlook at Sandown

or two patches causing con- inspected tomorrow morning.

PROSPECTS for today's cern, but the situation is bet meeting at Sandown imter than we thought it would proved yesterday but there will be a precautionary in-spection this morning. Andrew Cooper, clerk of the course, said yesterday: "We didn't have a bad frost last

night and the temperature

ter than we thought it would be. It all depends on how things are tonight, but there isn't a bad frost forecast. Today's meeting at Chep-401 2025-0 PIARL DAWN (7) (3) (1) Moore 8-0-7
402 400-06 ASSIGNMENT (11) (03) J Log 10-8-8
403 1200:- BLYTON STAR (942) Mss J Craze 8-9
404 0005-0 BSSERT WATER (7) J Brogger 4-9-6
405 1203-0 PRINCER RADDER (8) S Mellor 4-9-6
406 (253)-U PRINCER RADDER (8) S Mellor 4-9-6
407 (253)-U PRINCER RADDER (8) (0) Mss N Messa stow was called off because of frost, while Monday's pro-gramme at Fontwell is under has risen. There are still one | threat and the course will be

Wetherby runners and riders

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A Manneys

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507-35 PARSONS SOY (14) G Pectariot 7-11-3

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3-0 PLANNING CAIN (11), Lungo 5-11-9
1 RYEPPALE BOY (297) 4 O'Nori 6-11-9
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2 BOLD ACTION (14) Noron 5-11-2
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COOLITION HELL WOOD 5-11-2
4 PERRORS (44) Mrs P Sty 5-11-2
4 QALEN (65) (87) Mrs M Rovely 5-11-2
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MOLOWYS BRAIK Morgan 5-11-2 MOLONYS DRAM K Morgan 5-11-2 MB MOTIVATOR N Twiston-Davies Bettings 3-1 Persons Lad, 4-1 Riverdate Boy, 5-1 Bold Astron. 6-4 Mr McGvator, 10-1 The Aspet Last, Philipping, Galen. 26 response.

 Blinkered the first time: LINGFTELD: 1.15 Princess Parrot. 1.45 Dia Georgy, 4.25 Claque. SANDOWN: 4.40 The Ned.

Lingfield (All-weather Flat)

3.20 Golden Pound 4.25 Mingayle 1.15 PELLEY APPRENTICE HANDICAP (Die 8) fm \$1,572 041645- ZAHRAN (143) (CD) J Bradley 5-8-8 . 005/-0 PRINCESS PARROT (8) Lord Huntington Almer Gook 2* T Flold (7) 7* A Facility (2) Top Forth TIPS: Maki Welcome & Ecclusive Assembly 7, Royanz Real & Battless 7-4 Exclusive Assembly, 9-4 Occies, 7-2 Roman Real, 8-1 Maid Welco 12-1 Parationalists 1.45 PELLER APPRENTICE RANDICAP (Div 2) 1m E1,872 545405- HATTA SURSHINE (166) (CD) A Moore 5-9-10 6000-1 LADYHOWER (26) (D) Lord Hamingdon 4-0-5 0006-0-3AD REWE (168) J Bradley 4-9-4 0005-40 DIA GROBILY (S) (C) (D) Mrs N Macauley 5-9-2 ey (3) 3

2.20 BLACKWOOD CLANNING STAKES SI CA,694 2.50 COORANG LIMITED STAKES OF \$2,672

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| 407 | 1044-00 ARYTHME BASY (-0) (C) P Delton 4-0-4 |
408 | 00000-6 CLASSIC PET (28) C Horgan 4-0-4 |
409 | 00000-0 DAMHORD BANKELE (CR) C Enery 4-0-1 |
410 | 020-00 FIRSTY POINTERE (63) S Cumpon 4-0-1 |
411 | 344-00 JERSEY BELLE (7) (D) P Makin 4-0-1 |
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602 /400/-5 AETAL (9) (D) R Hodges 6-0-12
603 02-14-0 OLD HOOK (70) (CD) Paul Smith 5-9-11
604 02-14-0 OLD WALETING (19) (CD) Paul Smith 5-9-11
605 02-22 SHYOGATHON (7) (CD) A Moore 9-6-4
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608 0070-4 TROAMBALA (14) (CD) R Ingure 5-6-5
610 0200-500-8000 (12) (2) TROAMBALA (14) (CD) R Ingure 5-6-5
611 0565-6 TO KRIS-8 (14) J Fisth-Hayes 5-7-10
611 TIPS: Rakis 6, Old Hook 7, Sankhos 6 A Markey 5
TOP FORM TIPS: Rukis 8, Old Hook 7, Sealthy 5
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Beet. 4.25 COLLINGWOOD HANDICAP 1m 5f C2,955 202-21 MCATROAN (11) (C) R O'Sullban (-10-0 ...
23:1:30- BRAYER SPY (188) C Cycer 6-0-19
00000- BY THE MONRY (47) R Holloched 7-0-10
00000- BY THE MONRY (47) T Cloner 4-0-3
23:00-20 BRAYTED (19) G Therer 4-9-1
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6000-00 CLAQUE (U) D Chapman 4-8-13 204-125 WOTTASHABBE ES (16) (CD) L Mont 159-120 BILMANUE (5) (C) M Johrston 6-6-7 6-00-23 SASTWER (8) P Kildemy 6-6-8 DRINTIPS: Mothan 8, Secred Mirror 7, Sastire

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A Market Comment

The Samer

African Nations' Cup final: South Africa v Tunisia

Barker sparkles With Lucas' aid

John Periman meets three local heroes with something to prove to the English

treatment table, a session

Are you going to make it, South Africa's national coach Clive Barker asked of the player he has long regarded as the key man in his defence.

"I said don't worry I'll be ready for the African Cup of Nations because I want the job of marking Tony Yeboah." Radebe recalls. "I had picked him up a few times in practice but that is different."

On Wednesday night, at Jo-

with the weights to strengthen his injured knee, some light running — when his other boss rang from Durban.

Are you going to make it.

South Africa's national coach.

Two of Radebe's team-



often used to talk about meeting in the final." Masinga says — it is doubtful that Tunisia figured. Yet the UCAS RADEBE had just come home from a typical day at Elland Road — time on the ment table, a session the weights to the previous against Coventry last March, just as he was making the weights to the weights to the weights to the previous formula for the weights to the previous formula for the previous for the previous formula for the previous for the previous formula for the previous for the previous formula for the previous for the previous formula for the previous for the previous formula for the previous for the previous formula for the previous for the previous formula for th

shocked Zambia 4-2.

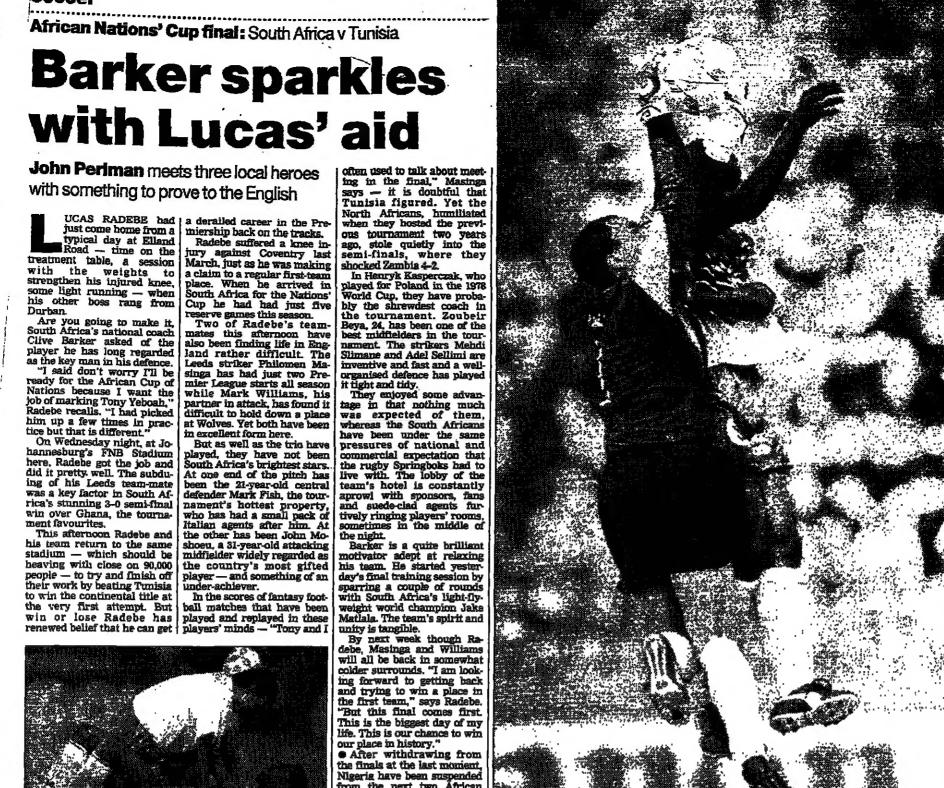
In Henryk Kasperczak, who played for Poland in the 1978 World Cup, they have probably the shrewdest coach in the tournament. Zoubeir Beya, 24, has been one of the best midfielders in the tournament. The strikers Mehdi Silmane and Adel Sellimi are inventive and fast and a wellorganised defence has played it tight and tidy.

They enjoyed some advantage in that nothing much was expected of them, whereas the South Africans have been under the same pressures of national and commercial expectation that

This is the biggest day of my life. This is our chance to win our place in history."

• After withdrawing from the finals at the last moment,

from the next two African Nations' Cup competitions. The Confederation of African Football also fined the Nigerism FA £10,000 and required



On the rise . . . Masinga challenges the Egyptian goalkeeper

Birmingham escape over crowd trouble

IRMINGHAM CITY have escaped serious punishment for the crowd trouble at last November's home game with HawlliM

A Football Association disciplmary hearing at St Andrews yesterday ordered City to play one game behind closed doors, suspended until the end of this year. It will be activated by "any serious misconduct involving Birmingham or their supporters either at home or away".

Birmingham were charged

over fans running on the pitch and a fan's alleged assault on a Millwall player; fans throwing missiles on to Millwall fans in the seats holow; and other alleged attacks by fans on Millwall supporters and police. ers and police.

Millwall were particularly upset at the time because Birblame on their supporters.

made by the club in recent years" in reaching their deci-sion. But the Millwall chair-man Peter Mead refused to condemn the light sentence. "I was upset at the time more for the way our fans were portrayed than the indignities years, to move to a new 30,000 they suffered," he said. "Now all-seat ground.

onerated, which is what I wanted to see rather than say

Birmingham are currently waiting to hear if they face punishment over a stormy Anglo-Italian Cup tie in Ancona, while Charlton have writ-ten to West Midlands Police, with a copy to the FA, complaining about an incident after the club's recent game at St Andrews in which visiting fans were attacked and £3,000

worth of damage caused to three supporters' coaches. Adrian Heath, Sheffield Un-ited's assistant manager, has been charged by the FA following alleged remarks

made during last Sunday's FA Cup defeat by Aston Villa The Sheffield United striker Jostem Flo has signed for the Norwegian club Stromsgodset and the Manchester City defender Alan Kernaghan joined Bradford on a month's million for the Bristol Rovers

Wimbledon's manager doe The FA said they had Kinnear said yesterday after "taken into account a plea in mitigation and the advances made by the club in recent land: "It was the hardest decision of my life. It breaks my heart to say it was the right job at the wrong time." Derby yesterday agreed in

principle to leave the Baseball

Liverpool sweep the board

IVERPOOL'S Robbie
Fowler and Stan Collymore have been named joint
Players of the Month for Janone game in the last 12 after uary, the first time the award Shearer and Chris Sutton were nominated in November

The Liverpool manager Roy Evans also picked up his second straight Manager of the Month award while Lennie Lawrence, after only six

trapping a nerve in his back. Andy Sinton is hoping to make his Tottenham debut when the club visit in-form Liverpool today. The former England winger, signed for £1.5 million from Sheffield

Wednesday two weeks ago. was Cup-tied last week. West Ham's Doni, the onweeks in the Luton Town job. loan 19-year-old from Sporttook the First Division prize.

Gary Pallister is standing by for Manchester United of Nottingham Forest.

FARTHER AFIELD: Nine contenders if a manager from outside England is acceptable

Foreign fantasy for the FA

David Lacey believes that, when it comes | and Roy Hodgson revived Irish and Swiss fortunes to coaching, the world owes us something

ers began to draw up a shortlist of likely candidates for the England job, Graham Kelly, the chief executive, admitted that the man who will succeed eigners. Only the longer-Terry Venables after the established footballing European Championship did not have to be English.

Presumably Kelly was speaking hypothetically. There is about as much being run by a non-English-

S the Football a Turk. Nevertheless, Kelly Association's comspeculative field sufficiently to consider some of the other possibilities.

After all, most of the world's international teams are picked by for-eigners. Only the longernations of Europe and South America stick to

The world outside owes England something. English coaches have been in the forefront of running

George Graham Country: Scotland

IN MANY ways the best-qualified of all the non-English types to succeed Terry Venables, not least because his devotion to Venables's methods would ensure the continuity the FA is seeking. Graham is also well up in toreign football and, as he showed with Arsenal, can organise teams to beat classy

Main advantage: have to buy players. Main drawback: Would have to travel with the FA. The Sun: BUNG-HO-HO!



George Raynor took Sweden to the 1958 World Cop final. And Mike Smith found in Egypt something of the initial success be enloyed with Wales.

Certain foreign, or at

might do equally well here. Some suggest themselves more seriously than others but George Graham is a genuine paradox because, while he would not be worn by the FA at any price following the Arsenal bung scandal, his footballing credentials are stronger than most. His one-year ban after Venables is due to

step down. A British, as opposed to a foreign, coach would be less likely to arouse the xe-nophobic tendencies of the tabloid press. But whoever takes over after Venables should be made fully aware of the sort of headlines which would greet failure. For turnip read tulip.
Anyone coming from
Europe would find it difficult to cope with the demands of a domestic pro-gramme which stifles international opportunity. A touch of frost and Venables has had to abandon the second of the get-togethers he had planned for the Eng-



Ossie Ardiles

Country: Argentina ONE of the best foreign imports to appear in the English league Ardiles's ability to produce teams, which play exciting attacking football has never been doubted. His teams usually end up leaking goals to drowning point but with Ossie in charge life with England would be far from dull.

Main advantage: Would win Main drawbacks ... most of

The Sun: DEAD L-OSSIE! Franz Beckenbauer

RECKENBALIER has had strong affinity with England since the 1966 World Cup and was always an admirer of the Bobbies Moore and Chariton. He might have less patience with English playing standards as they are at present but at least the squad might come properly to terms

The Sunt HANG THE KAISER!



ANOTHER admirer of things English, Cruyff's name has been linked with the odd league club from time to time, mos notably when Robert Maxwell motably when Hobert Maxwell was touting him for Derby County. If the FA's coaching revolution manages to produce a technically superior crop of go Dutch?

man advantage: It has to be his Dutch breeding. Main drawback: Salary would bankrupt the FA. The Sun: JESUS H CRUYFFI

Kenny Dalglish

ONE of the best footballers eve respected as a coach, it wou be interesting to see Dalglish In charge of the national squad He might surprise guite a lot of

cess Di. edge of the game Main drawback: Cheshire cat

media relations did contrive to

Sun: UP YER KILT, KENNY!





Gerard Houllier

Country: France HOULLIER's name has aiready been mentioned in connection pel raison d'être in France. He would combine foreign subtleties with English pragmatism but would need better material to work with than that at present available to Venables Main advantage: At least he is

Main drawback: He's a French The Sun: FROG OFFI

Radomir Antic Country: Serbia

THIS amiable former Luton mid der became a coach with Partizan Belgrade before mov ing to Spain, where he is now leading Atletico Madrid towards their first championship since 1977. His strengths are manmanagement and, so far, an nstinct he has shown for survival under Jesus Gil, Atletico's wacky president.

Main advantage: He posesses an equable disposition, Main drawback: Does not have a reputation as a tectician. The Sun: RADDY AWFUL!

Egil Olsen

NOT such an illogical choice as it might seem. Olsen, the welly-wearing Norweglan manager, is thoroughly accustomed to working with English league players and is a disciple of Charles Hughes, the FA's direc-tor of coaching. This might now count against him, but his record is hard to challenge. Main advantage: Could easily pick a winning team from the Main drawback: It would be

The Sun: QUISLING!

John Toshack TOSHACK's custodianship of

the Wales squad was spectacularly brief but his years in Spain must have lent him a valuable insight into the ways of foreign eams. Add to that his Livern tutelage under Bill Shankly and Bob Paisley and he becomes a better England candidate than first impressions might

Main advantage: Would go for there for Poland. The Sun: WELSHER!



TEAM SHEET

Arzensi v Coventry

Harford is thicky to stick with the side that

Redimepo rotums to the squad but Rud-sock is auspended, so Wright or Hartmoss will play. Sinton may make his debut.

Manchester City v QPR

Hartord, Earle and Ekoku are all a pended for Wamblegon, who welcome o

We win on goal difference

GET EXCLUSIVE LIVE COVERAGE ON



OF EVERY PREMIERSHIP MATCH.

909 & 693 MW

Cereal killer is stalking Keegan

Soccer Diary

Martin Thorpe

come for Kevin Keegan. And it has nothing to do with the on-off signing of Asprilla. Sunderland supporters around the world are being urged to boycott Sugar Puffs bemanager's appearance in the television advert.

Obviously trying to milk the situation, the Support-ers Action For Change group wants all Sunderland fans to down spoons in res-ponse to the advert, which shows Keegan bringing on the Honey Monster as a substitute at Wembley.

It has all left a bitter taste spokesman Graeme Wal-lace, who said: "We are calling on all true Sunderland fans to stop eating Sugar Puffs now. If action isn't taken this cereal killer could affect the lives of thousands of children

cross Wearside. Quaker Oats hit back through a spokeswoman Emma Davis, who argued:
"The Honey Monster is such a lovable character that he appeals to people from all walks of life whatever their age, sex or football team preference."

But Wallace so wants to show that Keegan is no special K that he is considering complaining to the Advertising Standards Authority. He reckons the ASA will eat the advert for breakfast on the grounds that it "clearly shows Kee-gan's 1996 team appearing fact which is obviously misleading".

POOR old Kevin Campbell. Just as he gets his game together at Nottingham Forest his private life falls apart. There he was probable a head-core here. watching a hard-core porn film when up, or out, popped Lisa, his girlfriend. Obviously Kevin has high

moral values because he has now ditched her.

Er, wait a minute. If Campbell is so virtuous, how come he was watching a hard-core porn film in the first place? "There is more to this than meets the eye," said Lisa immodestly.

THERE was huge excitement at the Soccer Diary desk this week. We received our first E-Mail letter. A small step on the wheel of progress, but we are easily pleased. The his-toric missive came from Adam Williams of Sheffield who forced a path along the electronic super-highway to report that last Wednesday he spotted Howard Kendall standing on the platform of the local station with a cup of Brit-ish Rail tea in his hand. Behind him were two British Rail officials. Spotting Kendall, one said to the other:

"What's he doing here?" "Don't know," replied his mate. "Probably looking for points." Adam thought that was quite witty for British Rail.

THAT'S Scimmorpe canded's season down the drain then. Yesterday's selection of their boss Dave Moore as Third Division Manager of the Month fol-lows four successive wins, three of them away, which has lifted the Iron from third bottom to three points off the play-offs.

Strangely the last time Moore won this award was exactly a year ago following three wins out of four. But the following game United were 3–0 up at home to Colchester and lost 4-3. They then lost at home to Chesterfield, away at Mansfield and completed February with four defeats out of five games.

den of Salford, that when Manchester City were shire hotel prior to Wednes-day's game at Southampton, son they have managed to keep anyone awake?



Back with a smile . . . Gunnell recalled days when I was doing five-minute runs and then crying my eyes out FOLAID LECK

Rage and the return of Gunnell

Stephen Bierley follows the hard road from injury to the start line today

ANY people tried to tell Sally Gun-nell that the injury pain and a frustration site

"There were times when my lusband Jon needed a tin hat," she said yesterday, able to laugh about it at last. "But people said it was perhaps the motivation I needed for this ummer's Games." Today, at the AAA indoor

championships in Birming-ham, the Olympic champion will run her first race in Britain since the 1994 World Cup at Crystal Palace, over 400 metres on the flat. Huge relief will be mingled with under-

Those nerves were already starting to jungle yesterday when she entered the Holiday Inn under the glare of television lights. Golden Sal was back and British athletics welcomed her with delight This is a different sort of

nerves, though — more apprehension, really. "I'm not expecting too much of myself. These indoor races are about These indoor races are about getting round in one piece. It's all about getting the competitive feel back."

It was after a training session in Pretoria in January last year that Gunnell developed a sore beel. She was absolutely bursting with fitness and looking forward im-mensely to defending her world 400m hurdles title in Gothenburg. The problem did not appear too worrying. Indeed the heel initially res-ponded to treatment but then

began the long and increas-ingly distressing trek from specialist to specialist, none able to diagnose what was wrong. The pain gnawed on. She iried a couple of pre-Gothenburg races in Ger-

horrible running them. I was kidding myself." On the day in August that the American Kim Batten took both her world title and her world record Gunnell de-cided to commit herself to the surgeon's knife.

The problem was a spur of bone in her right beel which was digging into the Achilles tenden but it was not until the Swiss surgeon opened her up that the problem became starkly obvious. Previous scans and X-rays had stub-bornly failed to reveal any-

thing untoward.
Gunnell had assumed that after the operation her trou-bles would be over. Far from it. The pain was intense. "In those early days I was doing just five-minute runs and then crying my eyes out. I had thought the problem would be taken away almost immedi-ately but instead the pain was

twenty times worse."

She had been at the end of her tether just before the operation and now the stress and tension piled up again. She swam and swam, with her husband cajoling and pushing as she hated it. Gradually the pain began to ease.

It has not gone away en-tirely. They told me the problem would take about a year and a half to clear up. The pain is getting better and hurts for a couple of hours after I've trained."

Because of this Gunnell was still a little anxious yesterday but the late news that Linford Christie had decided to run in Birmingham will have di-verted some of the pressure. Her presence on the track amid last season's internal wrangling might have helped switch the focus back from politics to pure athletics. A huge number of fans will be watching for her to emerge from this winter fit to defend

ber Olympic title in Atlanta.

Gunneil has just returned from nearly four weeks' training in South Africa where her times have been steadily improving "The old feeling of proving. "The old feeling of just floating over the ground is coming back." Today she runs on the flat at the National Indoor Arena, hop-ing that all future hurdles are confined to tracks leading on

30wring

Red alert for Cantona retur

time today since the Frenchman launched himself feetfirst at an abusive Crystal Palace fan in January of last year. The visit of Manchester United to face Wimbledon has caused the police to launch a major security operation.

FRIC CANTONA returns to I the ground with Wimbledon. Selhurst Park for the first do not play until tomorrow and there are fears that some of their fans may attempt to infiltrate the crowd at today's

Supporters arriving for the all-ticket match will be aused the police to launch a screened twice before enter-ing the ground, where 240 crystal Palace, who share stewards will be on duty.

that he knows before he goes out that he's going to be the

best player on the field. McStay's frustration before

did not just include the lack

ers around him."
McStay is one of the few in

the current squad who know what it takes to win a champi-

onship. His first title success

came in 1982, at the age of 17;

his last in the double-winning

year of 1988. At 31 he has evidently recovered his appetite.

McStay will have Andreas

Thom, recovered from injury,

back at his side for Hibernian's visit today. The German

has also had a telling effect

since his move from Bayer Leverkusen last summer.

Scottish preview

Burns thankful for revival of Celtic's main McStav

Patrick Glenn

AUL McSTAY's re-emergence this season as the most influential player at Parkhead brought some of trophies, but also perhaps striving without results in moderate teams. Now he's getting responses from playmanager Tommy Burns on in the Premier Division. The Celtic captain appeared

to have been submerged in the mediocrity that enveloped the club before the Fergus McCann takeover in 1994, Although still such a worthy contributor to the Scotland cause that he amassed 72 caps during "the troubles", McStay's frustration at club level was doing him no good. His disappointment at not

winning a trophy as captain ended last May, when the Scottish Cup was garnered, and the response from the team Burns has constructed around him has clearly had a galvanising effect.
"Since that day there has

been a remarkable develop-ment in his form and in his influence on and off the field," said Burns. "He is much more talkative and more assertive, much more

Rangers must recover from their 3-0 home defeat by

Hearts two weeks ago to take care of Partick Thistie at Fir-bill. Gascoigne returns from suspension but Gough and Durie are likely to be out with injury. With McCoist also unavailable, Walter Smith will probably play Van Vossen. signed from Istanbulspor, in the middle of the attack.



Performance of the week: Jason McAteer (Liverpool), a big influence in his team's

A N Other

tough little midfielder's journey to a land which promised, if not glory, then a few more years of biting tackles and a few more miles covered between penalty areas. He spent the bulk of his career alongside a well-known man-made terway in the city of his birth. Before that he had nested amid some spiky Midlands shrubs.

(West Bromwich Albion, Southampton, Crystal Palace, Wolves, Plymouth Argyle, win at Aston Villa on Bristol City, Colchester

Rugby League

owes bails out to Bulls

Paul Fitzpatrick

N leaving Leeds for Bradford Bulls, James Lowes has sacrificed his chance of appearing in his third successive Silk Cut Challenge Cup final. But he looked less than heartbroken at Odsal yester-day when his transfer was confirmed.

The former Hunslet scrumhalf, who has joined the Bulls on a three-year contract, was at hooker in the losing Leeds at nooker in the losing Leeds sides against Wigan in the finals of 1994 and 1995 and would have had a fair chance of going to Wembley again.

Now he is cup-tied and unable to help his new club in their commelier which begins their campaign which begins, weather permitting, against Batley at Odsal tomorrow.

prepared to pay. Hugh McGahan, the Leeds manager, and the club coach Dean Bell used all their powers of persuasion this week in an attempt to keep Lowes, but in vain. Bell said: "James figured heavily in our plans." His decision not to sign a new contract had "come as a shock" at Headingley.

shock" at Headingley.

Brian Smith, Bradford's head coach, said that in his view Lowes was the "No.1 player as far as defensive work-rate goes in this country. But it is not only that. I love players with skill and vision and I believe he has the ability to bring out the best in others."

With the departure to Aus-With the departure to Aus-

But missing out on Wembley was, in his eagerness to join the Bulls, a price Lowes was prepared to pay. train sides at hooker and Lowes could fill it. But there is competition for the place.

Mick Shaw, one of the game's rising young hookers, could, with Lowes out of the way, make the position his own at Headingley. He does not yet have Lowes's all-round qualities but has the

advantage of pace over him— and blistering pace at that. Shaw is No. 9 in a Leeds side which has benefited from the delayed cup programme. Graham Holroyd and Francis Cummins have recovered from injury and play against Swinton at Gigg Lane. Harvey Howard is on the bench after completing a two-match

Tennis

Olympian Seles beaten

ONICA SELES set her sights on an Olympic Games debut yestarday despite suffering her second defeat since her comback, beaten 1-6, 7-6, 6-4 by Croatia's Iva Majohi in the Pan Pacific quarter finals. The joint world No. 1, who trounced the 18-year-old on trounced the 18-year-old on the way to the Australian Open title last week, went into the Tokyo tournament with a sore left shoulder but refused to blame her injury. The Yugoslav-born Seles, who became a naturalised American in 1994 and now lives in Florida, then announced she would make herself eligible to play in the Olympic tournament for the

months and I plan to do that." Meanwhile, at the High Court in London, lawyers acting for Mats Wilander and Karel Novacek blamed faulty French laboratory procedures for the cocaine positives reported in samples taken at The players are seeking to prevent the International

Tennis Federation from hear-ing their appeal until they have received details of the "provenance" of the samples.
"There is no independent testing of the material." said their solicitor Jack Rabinowicz. "There is no protocol or procedure being provided to be able the players properly

first time. "I plan to take part to check the analysis. in Atlanta," she said. "I have to play the Fed Cup against Austria in about two more which we would need. We large amount of material which we would need. We have asked repeatedly for it but we have not received it.
The ITF has run this in a very strange way.

It emerged that the players, who were tested in June, were informed of their positive results only in October, Several aspects of the case remained unclear after yes-

terday's half-hour court hear-ing in which the ITF was rep-resented by the formidable Robert Reid QC, who chaired the Diane Modahl appeal — in which the quality of labora-tory testing was also a central issue. A full hearing is likely to be conducted in mid-

Weekend fixtures

(3.0 uniosa stated) (a-t = all-lickel)

FA CARLING PREMIERSHIP Arsenal v Coventry A Villa v Leeds

Temorrow Chelsea v Middlesbrough (4.0) PA VASE: Fifth remad: Banstend Ain v Peucohaven & Teombe, Belper Tn v Clith-erca. Brieg Tn v Trafford: Colley Row Amstey Normacs. Fluidon v Barnett, When-hoe Tn v Mangetsfeld (Int. Peetpoined: Pasints Tn v Torpoint Ath (now Sal. Feb. 10. 39). Temperover Thamesmeed Tn v Control Election

nde In v Mangotsheid (all Peethelmed Raumb In v Torpole) Aft inow Sel. Feb 10, 30). Teamservews Tharmserved Th v Carrey Island.

GRI VAUXNAALL CORFERENCES Aftrichant v Welling: Famborough v Southport Hallian v Hadnesford, Keitsring v Galbsheid Diech Inspection 8.001; Kiddenminster v Ding & Red: Macclessfeld v Northwork: Stough v Tellond, Stevenage v Runcom, Wolving v Bromagnove. Peethelmed Statybridge v Bromagnove. Peethelmed Statybridge v Dover.

Untilization Staniety v Braham Acklend; Bamber Bridge v Knowsky. Barrow v Embey. Bayth Spartame v Colwyn Bay: Booken Lie Acklend; Bamber Bridge v Knowsky. Barrow v Embey. Bayth Spartame v Colwyn Bay: Booken Lie V Corfery; Burden v Gallesfy: Droyleden v Marine; Gamsborough v Winstord Und. Marine; Gamsborough v Winstord Und. Marine; Ashino Illat v Radelille Sor, Bradlord PA v Gt Harwood Tix; Congleton In v Freebood Tix, Varrengian In v Curzon Ashino. Whitey Bay v Leigh: Workington v Farskey Cellic.

N-W COUNTRES LEACURE Part Direlated Bootle v Bladtspool River. Darmen v Nanhwork Tra. Eastwood Hendry v Skelmersdain Life. Giossop Ne v Salliord C, Marine Rd v Burschool Hendry v Skelmersdain Life. Giossop Ne v Salliord C, Marine Rd v Burschool Hendry v Skelmersdain Life. Giossop Ne v Salliord C, Marine Rd v Burschool Hendry v Skelmersdain Life. Giossop Ne v Salliord C, Marine Rd v Burschool Hendry v Skelmersdain Life. Giossop Ne v Salliord C, Marine Rd v Burschool Hendry v Skelmersdain Life. Giossop Ne v Salliord C, Marine Rd v Burschool Hendry v Skelmersdain Life. Giossop Ne v Salliord C, Marine Rd V Burschool Hendry v Skelmersdain Life. Giossop Ne v Salliord C, Marine Rd V Burschool Life. Scotchoo v C Destre La Street W Auckland v Tow Law Trr Whichham v GTM Newcastle, Whitby Tn v Employed Not Civil.

ENDSLINCH LEAGUE First Division

Charlton v C Palace (2.55) ... Norwich v Birmingham Port Vale v Stoke (12.0, =-1) _ Reading v Portsmouth _____

lackpool v Hull_ ournemouth v Wycombe Bournemouth v Wycomi Brenttord v Burnley — Brighton v Wrechem — Bristol Rurs v Walsall — Chesterfield v Swansea Crewe v York — Notis Co v Peterboroug Rotherham v Oxford Un Strewebury v Bradford Stockport v Bristol C — Swindon v Carliste —

dae Utd v Gill Derlington v L Orient. Hartlepool v Rochdste Lincoln v Colchester -Mansifeld v Northamp Plymouth v Chester — Scarborough v Exeter Torquay v Fulham — Wigan v Preston (s-Q ~

Barton v Sudbury T; Cheknaturd v Dor-chester: Chellenham v Atherstone; Gloucester v Crawley T; Halesowen v Barnon V saccury 1; Cosenatus V chechester: Chellenham v Atherstone;
Gloucaster v Crawley T; Nalesowen T;
Marthyr v Cambridge C; Roshdan &
Troonda v Worzesser; Statiend v Bestinct;
1; VS Regby v Salishiry, Middenet: Bedworth U v Evenham U; Bilston T v Ouder
T; Corby T v Rothwell T; Grantham T v
Suctingham T, Kinge Lyrev v Reddich U;
Leicaster U v Bridgord'n T; Moro Gm v,
Tamworth; Nuneaton Bor v Hindsley T; Rc
Warwick V Bury T; Stouthridge v Pegel R;
Setton Coddicted v Bollhuit Bor, SewSeven
Braissrae T v Reet 7; Clevation T v Erith &
Belveder's Ferstant T v Weston-Alarte;
Fisher Et v Weymouth; Forest Gm Rints v
Newport (John), Havant T v Poole T; Sishingbourne v Trovforlige T; Toshridge A v Cisderlord T; Yate T v Ashibed T.

BELL'S SCOTTISH PREMIER

Partick v Rangers

NCSS LEAGUM: Presider Divisions Browley v Aylesbury Delveich v Hitchir; Plantow Bor v Bowham Wood; Henden v St Albeste, Molessy v Kingstonian; Puribez v Bishop's Sportburt; Sation Usi v Cherbey Tr; Watton & Herschan v Edisid: Worthing v Hayer, Yeading v Grayat; Yeadin v Garshalton. Plant Divisions Aldershot Tr v Thame Unit; Barking v Vernblays, Basingsalois To v Berthannated Tr; Bognor Regis Tn v Haybridge Swite; Chechen Udd v Leyton, Pennant; Marlow v Cadord C; Roleilp Manor v Staines Tr; Touting & Millians Ulid v Leyton, Pennant; Marlow v Cadord C; Roleilp Manor v Staines Tr; Touting & Millians Ulid v Leyton, Pennant; Marlow v Cadord C; Roleilp Manor v Staines Tr; Touting & Millians Ulid v Leyton, Pennant; Marlow v Roleing Tr; Hampdon v Met Police; Hennel Hernopelsed v Egham Tr; Hungerlord Tr v Edynam Tr; Hampdon v Morthesot; Witham Tr v Dorsing, Third Division Garsberley Tr v Dorsing, Thomburch v Southalt, Horsham v Cove; Lieghon v Northesot; Emorn & Beels v Arelay; Honduck & Eghan Tr v Herdicot Tr; Tring Tr v Herdiald Liet, Weshistone v Flaudwall Physiolegical Disposal Elect V Hardow Th.

ewerh v Southall, Horshant v Covet Leighton Tin v Herdland To, Tring Tin v Herafield
Unit, Weskinstone v-Flackwall-Fift, Windows
a Eine v Herdland Tin, Tring Tin v Herafield
Unit, Weskinstone v-Flackwall-Fift, Windows
a Eine v Herbow Ti.

detail Tin Lift Lift Lift Lift Tring Tin V
Budderd Tin Odd Down Alli v Westbury
Unit Treaton Tin v Chipperham Tin.
S-E COUNTRES LIEASURE (11.0): Floret
Unit Tring Tin v Chipperham Tin.
S-E COUNTRES LIEASURE (11.0): Floret
Distailors Charlton Alli v West Harr Unit
Chetwes v Aresnat, Fulham v Cambridge
Unit; Gillingham v Tobanham Hotspur; Horwith C P Portsmouth; OPR v Jamelin Tir,
Southand Unit w Watford.
Lieasure Of WALESB Barry Tin v Aberyelwyth (2.30): Briton Ferry v Samper C (2.30):
Caerswe v Inter Caroff, Colman Bay v
Rhyt: Connair's Quey v Portsmodog,
Conney v Holywell (2.30): Lienes Bay
Rhyt: Connair's Quey v Portsmodog,
Conney v Holywell (2.30): Lienes V
Rhyt: Connair's Quey v Portsmodog,
Conney v Holywell (2.30): Lienes V
Rhyt: Connair's Glenzyon V
Region (12.30): Lieneschfinald v Elbin V
Ring v Connair's Glenzyon V
Region (13.0): Lienes Collection
v Camedow: Glenzyon V
Region V
Re LEAGUE OF BULLARIC Frames Gurny VIII v UCD (7.0); Sign Purs v Ahlore In (7.20). Tenentroux Cork C v St. Patricks Alb (2.45); Dupdate V Bohamisers (3.15); Shenruck Rives v Drogheds Uhd (2.45). U-18 youth Herman Statistics Constant Notice England v Denmark.

Balk Giff CHALLEBOX CVP Remed Peace Bradiert V Battey: Cartiele v Water-field (2.0); Castlebot V St Violena (2.0); Pull v Hunslet (3.15); Null 27 v Laigh (3.15); Josephley V Barrow (3.15); Olchera v Warrington: Rocchisle v Texto Nil); Bedran v Varrington: Rocchisle v Texto Nil; Bedran V Nortichpion v Widnes. BARLA VOSTI (STERNATIONAL: BARLA VOSTI (STERNATIONAL: BARLA VOSTI (LOR V France (12.0). Desembery).

SCOTTISH LEAGUE

Ayr v Stenhousem East Afe v Clyde ...

Montrose v Servick_____ String v Queen of South. Stranger v Forter_____

Third Division
Albian v East String
Alloe v Rose County
Arbrooth v Queen's Park

SHITTIAN LEAGURE Premier Divisions Basingstoke v Newcaste (6.30); File v Shellicki (7.15); Humberskie v Gardiff (5.46); Notlingham v Millon Keynes (6.30). Shetheld (7/18): Humberside v Cardan (S.46); Nothigham v Millon Keynte (8.39). Teenanyow Cardan v Hancardo (8.16); Ourham v File (8.80); Millon Keynte v Humberside (8.05); Sough v Bestragatole (8.30); Derhislon Gesc Chetresford v Blackburn (8.20); Dumbers v Brackburn (8.20); Dumbers v Brackburn (8.20); Macheny v Manchesster (6.07; Mun'hyfield v Sefadon (7.0); Paisley v Gulidiord (7.0); Solihull v Peterborough (8.20); Tellord v Sellingham (7.30). Temesrows Billingham v Chelmsford (8.10); Blackburn v Tellord (8.0); Manchesster v Bracktnell (6.0); Munraydad v Gulidiord (8.30); Peterborough v Ourerius (8.50); Solihull v Madestly (7.0).

• Britain's Dean Robertson and Injury's Paul McGinley overcame stiffing heat to share a second place at the hallway stage to the Heistocken Classic in Party restorcing-Australia's Wayne Smith, who had abared the oversight lead with the New Zaslander Garge Turrer, pulsed clear of the Seid on 10 under after a compaced SR. Stree shots, ahead of Robertson and McGinley.

rus (Buttyfield). Rus Tennents Charletonskip:

Med PP v Grangamouth (2.30), Weetz Tresstarpsvan (Blasgow Acade v Wigdown-obitins (2.00); West of Scotland v Stirling Co (2.30).

GLUSS MATCHESTA Combotine v Phymouth (12.0); Pylide v Waterlon (1.0); Harisquins v Pontelfract (2.10); Hall Indiana v Pontelfract (2.10); Hall Indiana v Pontelfract (2.10); Hall Indiana v Pontelfract (2.30); Hall Indiana v Pontelfract (2.30); Hawazatte Goetorto v Morley; Flossiyn Pf v Ciffion (12.0); Smilliel v Colley (2.30); Stotle v Bradtord & Bingley (2.30); Watefield v Orrell (2.30); Windington (2.30); College (2.30); Watefield v Bradtord Wycombo v Marinov (2.0); Lichtleid v Stotle (2.0); Watefield v Stotle (2.0); Watefield v Stotle (2.0); Watefield v Stotle (2.30); Watefield v Stotle Goetors.

CUS RESUMANCE COUNTY CHARMYON-SHETY Southern seen-dinal Bertatrice v Bloucesterably (2.15, Fraeding), U-4.1 DIVISIONAL CHAMIPSONERIES Landon & S East v South West (2.30, Imber Court, North v Middlands (2.15, Ciloy).

Basicettamiii SAIRSBURY'S CLASSIC COLA WOMEN'S NATIONAL CUP: Semi-Basic Burting & Daganham v Nariender (7.19; Birmingham v Shelffed (4.30; University of Saily National Saily Saily

by v Studies (J.D). WOMEN'S NATIONAL TROPPLY: Semi-Semies Bristal v Wirtel (AD; Crystal Pat

Bournville v Soutingste (2,30), Teamernews
Cannock v Guldford (2,50), Canterbury v
Stourpor! (1,0); East Grinstead v Old
Loughtonians (2,0); Hervant v Indian Gym
(2,15); Househow t Trojams (2,0); Hell
Berierd T (2,0); Surbition v St Albans (2,50);
Teadingston v Reading (1,50), Second Diretalions: Teamerners: Section v Shelfield
(2,0); Forester Secondards (1,50), The Construc-

iord (12.50): Firebrands v Taddinston (12.48): Hervart v Ediplasana (13): Old Loughtonians v Trojans (1.30); Richmond v Reading (1.50).

MESSAM BRISH CUPP. Conserter-fleating Avoca v Anneales (1.50): Cork Col v Persbroks W (2.0): Instomars v Lisraguavy (1.5): Three Rock v Hollywood (2.0).

REGIONAL LEAGUER Bask: Bedford v Cambs Univ. B Stortford v Cambs City. Chelmestor v Barry. Cothester v Redbridge; Inswich v Peterborough. Bild-lander Beiger v Sudens; Bloometh v Harrhorse; Bridgnorth v Farrhorse; Bridgnorth v Farrhorse; Bridgnorth v Farrhorse; High Wycombe v Octord Hewle; Leves v Spanoer; Llone v Maidernhaed; Newbury v Anchortans; Old Weldountians v Windinster. Windhelm v Beckentnam; Wolding v Gove Cautr Weldingham v Old (Ingstonhars. Weets Bath Buces v Bristol Univ; Chelmanter v T Vale: Swansee v Exestr Univ; Walt v Phymorth; Whitchurch v Robinsons.

Exair Unit: WSM v Plymouti: Whitchurch v Robinsons.
WOMEN'S CLUBS: Sexleyheath v Cheimstord: Bracknell v Sournemouti; Chettenhan v Reading, Crimson R v Doncaster; Guildiord v St Athans; Hampton v Cohvait. Old Loughtonians v Blueharts (1.0); Poynton v Liverpoot; Winbiadon v Sherwood; Woking v Hampsteed (10.30); York v Bradford. Tomorrows Bedans v Whittey Bay, Colvyn Bay v Stockport (2.0); Newport v Leoninater.
WELBH WOMEN'S NATIONAL LEAGUE Cardiff Ah v Haverfordwest, Penarth v Newport (10.0); Pontypridd v Lanker, Swensen v Newport (2.0); Maker Newport Responsible Cardiff Ah v Haverfordwest, Penarth v Newport (10.0); Pontypridd v Lanker, Swensen v Newport (2.50). Under

19 (1.20. tumorrow 8.50). Group & Estilitate HG. Alice Harpur, Brastiord HG, Sunbory HC, Portlandad HC, Group & Clinical Logitudians, Bromsprova, John Dasne's, City of Portsmouth HC, Euroboth HC.

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Топпогточн

RUGBY UNION: THE FIVE NATIONS CHAMPIONSHIP

England v Wales at Twickenham

Duels in line for divided England

Robert Armstrong

HE painful rift be tween Will Carling and the England manager Jack Rowell was exacerbated yesterday as reports trickled out of the England camp at Richmond suggesting that the captain wanted to distance himself from team selection and the tactics for today's Five Nations match

enior players believe that Carling's revelation that he no longer takes part in selection meetings was deliber-ately calculated to switch full responsibility for team mat-ters back on to Rowell.

pass on important nuggets of information without thinking through the effect of making that information public," said one England camp member. against the Samoans in Deone England camp member.
"Some players believe Jack

though, where does that leave him when it comes to shaping the style of play?"
Rowell took no active part

in the England squad's training session at Roehampton. which lasted less than an hour. Neither did the coaches Les Cusworth and Mike Slemen but it would be prema-ture to draw hard and fast conclusions from Rowell's lack of public communication with Carling, if only because the England captain often takes charge of the final Friday session along with the pack leader Ben Clarke.

This week Carling has been extra-sensitive to criticism that England are failing to conclusions from Rowell's

that England are failing to produce crowd-pleasing per-formances in the new profescember, England were booed has switched horses in mid-stream regarding the type of eral members of the team to let their hair down and

taking much of the blame for England's shortcomings.

Last month's 15-12 defeat by France in Paris prompted sibility on the senior players and decision makers, even though the manager's game plan largely represented a return to the bad old days of 10-man set-piece rugby.

It is thought that Carling wishes to deflect further adverse criticism areas from

verse criticism away from ship because he feels he exer-clses limited influence on the overall strategy. Speculation on the limits of Carling's authority hardly fosters the mood of optimism England need for a clash with Wales. Significantly both Carling and Rowell gave a surly res-ponse this week to a positive invitation from the new

10 A Thomas (Bristol)
9 W. Howley (Bridgend

Twickenham teams

M Catt (Bath) 15 J Thomas (Liacell

England manager was already planning to stifle Welsh enterprise with the shortrange firepower of his for-

wards instead of seeking to

a major disappointment were his loose forwards to resort to the embarrassing back-row moves that played so wit-lessly into French hands. Having forfeited the chance of a Grand Slam, Carling's

collection of talented individuals - they are not yet a team have little to lose by throw-ing off the shackles and get-ting the ball into the cultured hands of their midfield trio as quickly as possible. Besides, Dallaglio, Clarke and the recalled Rodber have far too much all-round footballing

down the touchlines. To their credit Wales have

tress Twickenham, where the 75,000 capacity almost makes the Arms Park seem homely Clearly Bowring is deter

infagination. But it would be land's impatient supporters might see a fascinating series

ability to dissipate their efforts on a dull grind up and

game he wants the team to agree with the former Eng. allow England to engage in an lant than playing with paloking Welsh team, one had of Arwel Thomas and Robert Say in picking the team, who remarked pointedly that it was profoundly depressed after all Rowell's talk about the uneasy suspicion that the Howley for their visit to For-

ish rugby and develop a national playing style that has a fighting chance of suc-cess in the next World Cup. If Thomas and Howley, crum-half in the Terry Holmes mould, can galvanise the Welsh threequarters, Eng-

they failed to do in Paris where Martin Bayfield suf-fered the indignity of calcu-

mined to break with the disredited conservatism of Brit Rowell . . . self-exonerated The Welsh locks, Jones and Liewellyn, should be able to win their own line-out ball and perhaps even pinch one or two of England's deliver-ies, should Regan fail to im-

prove on his throw-in.

The maxim that tight for of individual duels such as wards win matches may still Evans v Underwood, Proctor he valid, yet both sides know v Sleightholme, and Justin from butter experience that it depends on loose-limbed No doubt England will backs to win friends. England focus strongly on winning need to learn what the Welsh good set-piece ball, something have known for some time that modern rugby is a marwhere Martin Bayfield sui-fered the indignity of calcu-lated illegalities by the Win or lose, it is time to bring French without winning any | a touch of magic back to the

Bowring's vision takes Wales back to the future

As the Welsh prepare for Twickenham, Frank Keating meets the new boss and finds him emulating an old boss

THE WASTEPAPER bin | London (the old Borough of any middle-aged | Road College), where he took sporting back in recent years has been full of scrunched-up reams devoted to a succession of brightly luminous comings and direly grim goings of Wales's national coaches.

In the past 12 months alone there have been three. First, Alan Davies and his bow-tie and clipboard were dumped and forgotten like a pre-Gorbachev politburo aspirant; then the Australian Alex Evans stomped back home cursing most of his under-achieving World Cup team: "The rugby players of the northern hemisphere want to be number one but they also want to be pisspots and so ites and every other bloody

Now Kevin Bowring with his ash-blood hair and cleareyed bright morning face steps up and once again there is an almost tangible optimism in the air. But this time it is not only for a decent enough show at Twickenham today but for a planned and considered future.

Bowring has a contract to take Wales into the new century. Might he be the real thing and the right stuff? He is 41 and from Wales's 1880s cradle of the game at Neath. He trod the once traditional route from those western hillsides to train as a teacher in and of Carwyn's 1971 Lions'

in over 350 games for London Welsh — perennially, it seemed, as captain — and one wise judge seriously called him "the world's best uncapped flanker".

More lately, as the popular College, he had successful charge of Wales's Under-20, Under-21 and A-team cadres. triumph. They showed the north enclosure pulled back fuzzy monochrome film of in triumph I can still remem-

"But at every match," says Bowring, "you could see Carwyn shining through. I just marvelled ... Early ball, speed of pass, support on each and every side, decisive and thrillingly incisive tackling, every player's move illustrat-ing a know-how and togetherness, quick ball and fingertip and progressive director of passing, instinctive aware-PE at Bristol's select Clifton ness of the point of the opposition's vulnerability . . . I know that old film's in grainy black-and-white but I'm going For the first XV Bowring to run it pest my new team today bloods nine players soon, that's for sure.

Well, Dai Morris was there, wasn't he? The hero'

who have seen Twickenham only on television.

He has managed what the late Carwyn James pined for, yet never achieved: total con-trol of selection and strategy. The self-important suits of the Weish Rugby Union have seen the light. Bowring will not have to be, as someone colourfully put it in the week, looking over his shoulder for daggers and down at his feet

for vipers". Last week in Cardiff Bow-ring attended the dinner to celebrate the quarter-century anniversary of the start of "the decade of the dragon"

The Welsh

defence in

the white

heat of

Twickenham.

Leeky.

(England to win by 11-15pts: 9/2.)

ENGLAND V WALES

1/5 ENGLAND 18/3 WALES 18/1 THE DRAW

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15/8 SCOTLAND 2/5 FRANCE 16/1 THE BRAW
Whenhay Points Wargin.

First Tryscards

8/1 Underwood

14/1 Carling

14/1 Catt

14/1 Evans

14/1 Guscoti

14/1 Proctor

16/1 J. Thomas

29/1 L. Davies

20/1 N. Davies

10/1 St-Andre

14/1 Joiner

16/1 Dods

16/1 Lacroix

Yinekış Pelats Margin

5/1 England win by 1-5 points

4/1 England win by 6-10 points

9/2 England win by 11-15 points

6/1 England win by 16-20 points

9/1 England win by 21-25 points

16/1 England win by 26-30 points

5/1 Wales win by 1-5 points

12/1 Wales win by 6-10 points

18/1 Walas win by 11-15 points

33/1 Wates win by 16-20 points

47: Scotland win by 1-5 points

8/1 Scotland win by 6-10 points

16/1 Scotland win by 11-15 points

4/1 France wan by 1-5 points

7/2 France and by 6-10 points.

9/2 France win by 11-15 points

"Okay, I admit, defences are now more manned and or-ganised, the pitch is smaller because the players are far bigger and fitter, but that film shows us that we are not striving to attain some unknown vague and lovely future apparition of rugby football but one which has already been achieved."

That is all very well but for how long did he hesitate before throwing so many callow colts to the English today, as well as their baying throng. We will live with that A hos tile crowd, I agree, can make s player shrink; but just as often it makes him grow, be tronger, more aware, more daring. We have a bunch able to deal with the psychology of all that. We have a Welshness about us, a bonded pride.

Bowring's first live mem-ory of Wales v England probably sealed his decision to invest in youth. It was Keith Jarrett's match against Eng-land in 1967. Bowring was 12, Jarrett only seven years older. Dad and uncles and cousins from Neath took the boy to the Arms Park.

as if on a playground dare. and, when he counter-attacked with a 50-yard try, Bowring remembers "being carried into the air by the sudden swing of the crowd as it craned forward as one to see Jarrett go on down the "And then as the whole

that Test series, most of it shot, it seemed, through New shot, it seemed, through New again, although my spirit was still walking on air for hours afterwards.

Just as it was last week at that 25th anniversary dinner. "Well, Dai Morris was there, wasn't he? The hero. As a kid I followed him everywhere. As a tyro flanker, I'd watch his every run, never watch the rest of the play, only Dai ... uncompromising stealth and quietude, steel, perpetual motion, unfashionable and unfancy but always strong

and controlled and alongside the man with the ball. That's why they called him The Bowring once played a friendly at The Gnoll in the same back row as the by then venerable Morris. Even so, the new Wales coach admits, he did not dare a nod even in

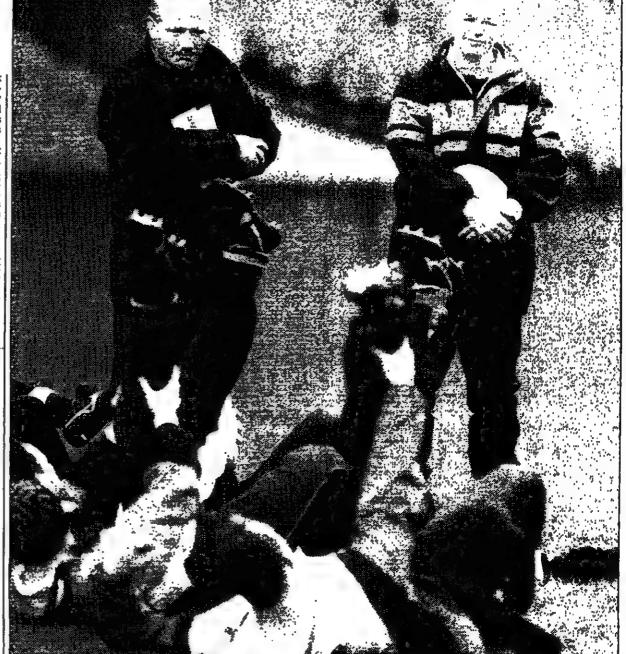
the direction of Morris at the dinner. "I'm still in my schoolboy's awe," he says. "But I was put on the table with Max Boyce, so there." The troubadour used to

work, long ago, with Bow-ring's father at Neath's Metal Box company. "Remember his song, Duw It's Hard, about pit closures which included the lines 'She's got a job for me/ Though it's only counting buttons in the local factory'? Well, that was my Dad.
"He was a maintenance car-

penter at the factory for over 40 years and, because he knew everybody, he was in charge of retirement gifts. He'd be in the 'Cod 'n' Cab-bage' [Neath's Fishing and Allotment Society) and Dad would say to Max: 'Give us a ditty, an in-joke verse, for soand so Dai Bloggs who's retiring.' And Max would. Tried out lots of stuff on my Dad."

Keith Jarrett, Dai Morris and Max Boyce as heroes One cannot be more of a foursquare copper-bottome even one who has lifted a silver cup in front of the Royal Box at Twickenham — as cap-tain of London Welsh after the Middlesex Sevens final in

"The crowd booed, tongue No worries. Coming from them it made me fael even more Welsh and nine feet taller." To all intents, the engaging Bowring begins his new life back at the same place this afternoon. We shall see what



Still down . . . Wales train under Bowring, right, and Terry Cobner, the WRU's director of rugby

Northampton join chase to tempt Johnson away from Leicester

Lto bold on to their England lock Martin Johnson. the target of three Courage League clubs. Newcastle and Harlequins have al-ready declared their interest and now Northampton

have joined the scrum. The unbeaten second division leaders are reportedly prepared to offer the 25-year-old Johnson a long-first appearance for New-land's four tries.

term contract worth more than £350,000 to team up with his England colleague Hartlepool. It will be the wing's first competitive Marcin Bayneid.
Leicester's director of rugby Tony Russ said yesterday: "We are still having talks with Martin about

Johnson's former Leices-

game since the World Cup and a knee operation.

Scotland A scored a wellgame that yielded nine earned 38-32 victory over

their French counterparts at Myreside yesterday. Their captain Damien Cronin scored two of Scot-

side which won in Dublin

with Bryan Redpath and Gre-

FRANCE

scored the others and the outside-half Scott Weish tries. Four of them came in the final 12 minutes as France found space in a tiring Scottish defence and able victory.

Scotland v France at Murrayfield

French pack the strength to defy the omens

lan Malin

tion together to the Scot-land management this week have been Grand and Slam. Six years have passed since the Scots achieved such a conjunction but their Five Nations omens are good.

Scotland began their 1990 championship season with a narrow win in Dublin and followed it with victories over France, Wales and, most memorably, England to take the Grand Slam. This season finds them playing the same sequence of matches and beginning with another hard win over Ireland, by 16–10 in

a Lansdowne Road gale. It all augurs well but Scotland's manager Jim Telfer fears the weight of expecta-tion on a team that only a for the wooden spoon after in-

"We have an away win power and superior line-out got stronger as the game wore under our belts and that will play should give their danger. on, I expect them to be partichelp us psychologically," said Telfer. "But it also means there will be expectation from the Scottish public for us to beat France. That will put all

the pressure on us."

Scotland like to go through
the Five Nations by stealth but France, their opponents today, are the favourites to win their first Grand Slam for nine years. On paper they are the best side in Europe and, for all their powers to disrupt the game-plans of their opponents, Scotland seem destined to be beaten today by the side whose late victory condemned the Scots to a quarter-final against the All Blacks in last summer's

World Cup. France showed little of their traditional élon in the 15-12 defeat of England in Paris but their coach Jean-Claude Skrela has promised different displays against more adventure at Murrayfield. France's scrummaging England their scrummaging

play should give their dangerous three-quarters plenty of

On the evidence of their creaky display against Ire-land, Scotland's wee men in the front row may struggle against the French scrum and, to tackle this problem the Scots took to "the sledge while training in the snow

last Sunday.

The sledge, a scrum ma-chine loaded with two tons of weights, gave the Scottish for-wards some idea of how intractable the French pack will be today and Scotland again concentrated on the scrum in Wednesday's session.

maging before the Ireland game and that certainly "Merle, at 19 stones, will certainly anchor the French scrum and they also have a loose-head prop who is a very good scrummager. Against

on. I expect them to be particularly good on their own

Murrayfield teams SCOTLAND R Shepherd (Meirose) 15 J L Sadourny (Colomiers) C Joiner (Melrose) 14 E Ntamack (Toulouse) S Hastings (Watsonians) 13 A Penaud (Brive) I Jardine (Stirting County) 12 T Castaignede (Toulouse)
II Dods (Northampton) 11 P Saint-André (Montierrand)

rumsend (Northampton) 10 T Lacroix (Dax) B Bedpath (Metrose) D Hilton (Bath) K McKenzie (Stirling County)

S Campbell (Dundee HSFP) D Weir (Newcastle Gosforth) right (W Hartlepool, capt) 1 Smith (Gloucester)

1 M Perié (Toulon)

₽ J M Gonzalez (Bayonne) 3 C Califano (Toulouse) 4 O Merie (Montferrand) 5 O Roumat (Dax)

8 F Pelous (Dax) E Peters (Bath) ENTS: Sections: K Logan (String County), C Chaimer Sewcastle Costoring, S Murray (Edinburgh Academicals), P (krmstrong (Newcasile (kr. Scotteh), J Hay (Hawick),

Scotland have retained the | half-back partnership that was so productive against the

France's fly half Thierry Lacroix needs only four points to beat Didier Camberabero's all-time French points-scoring record of 354. and he may well get the chance to kick those two conversions he needs today.

The only change in the French line-up is enforced. Alain Penaud recalled at centre in place of Richard Dourthe who has been banned for two internationals for his tap-dance routine on Ben Clarke's cranium a fort-

night ago. The bad news for France's travelling supporters is that the cockerel they traditionally let loose on the pitch will not be given the free-range treatment today: Lothian Council have banned the import of birds into Murrayfield. France, nevertheless, look likely to be the side crowing tonight.

Note to

海集 水管

nell

SportsGuardian

THE BUILD-UP TO TWICKENHAM TAKES ITS TOLL



Lights, camera, action . . . Rowell looks outwardly calm while doing his best to ignore media pressure during England training in Roehampton yesterday — PHOTOGRAPH: FRANK BARON

England at daggers drawn

Richard Williams on the fall-out from a fraught week which has | Did he agree that some of | nevertheless suggested, be- | know you can rely on through thick sud thin.". left Jack Rowell and Will Carling at odds with each other

held on to his temper. When he smiled, which was seldom, it looked like a grimace. It had been a week in which the pressure intensified on the England rugby squad, and yesterday their manager showed no sign of enjoying the experience.

On Wednesday an angry Jack Rowell had ordered the cameras of BBC Wales to be removed from the touchline during an open training sesbetween losing games and winning games." he barked at his media watchdog.

By yesterday morning the mood had darkened further. As his forwards worked on the skills of line-out and the skills of line-out and day se was reduced to outton scrummage which had described them in Paris a fortuight ago, the apparent rift between Rowell and his own captain provided the topic of conversation among observing the second provided the topic of conversation among observing the second provided the topic of conversation among observing the second provided the topic of conversation among observing the second provided the topic of conversation among observing the second provided the topic of conversation among observing the second provided the continuous conversation among observing the continuous conversation among conversation among conversation among conversation among conversation conversation among conversation conversation among conversation co

acens the moment be

says. The European Union draig Flynn said yesterday resterday ruled that residency qualifications are illegal and constitute a breach EU rules on employ-

signs for the club, whatever

the International Board

says. The European Union

vesterday ruled that rest-

legal and constitute a restraint of trade. The IB ruled at their

annual meeting this week

that players wishing to

INFORD CHRISTIE WILL

nake a surprise and Idoubtless dramatic

return to the British track

this afternoon when he com-petes in the 60 metres at the AAA indoor championships

land ground in Roehampton. Rowell had failed in his swift attempt to limit the damage caused by Will Carling's revelation that he was no longer consulted on team

E PROWLED, he ers of England's final practice aides, Carling had never been fidgeted, he barely session at the Bank of Englases, a selector, even in the Geoff Cooke era. Rowell explained that under his own system the captain is consulted both is made. But no amount of spin-doctoring could contraselection. Nor had an official dict the memories (and the statement, issued by the | tape recorders) of those who | captain, that he had been a

"I don't know because I'm not really involved in selection. so I don't really know what the state of play is there. But if we don't win on Saturday there is bound to be a lot of

pressure."

A minute or two later the subject was raised by another reporter who observed that it had been generally assumed, since Carling's early days as

'I'm not really involved in selection but if we don't win on Saturday there is bound to be pressure'

The Rugby Football

prove illegal.
Tony Hallett, the RFU

secretary, has already expressed his concern over

the feasibility of imple-menting the IB rules. "This

from Australia on Tuesday after winning two 100 metres races in Adelaide and Perth, both hand-timed at 10,00sec.

His main opponent will probably be Mike Rosswess who

has previously beaten him in

Christie homes in on Birmingham

Birmingham.

Rugby Football Union's press | had witnessed Carling's reac- | selector. Had the position officer, succeeded in provid- | tion on Thursday to questions | changed under Rowell? ing a convincing rebuttal of Carling's words. As Rowell left the field with the players to return to their hotel yesterday be was reduced to button-holing the agency reporter who had elicited the original

Bosman effect knocks on

HILIPPE SELLA will fore being allowed to turn aide said. "It would also in be able to play for Sar- out for their new clubs. The clude rugby."

EU begs to differ.

An aide to the employ-

ment commissioner Pa-

ment as determined in the

recent Jean-Marc Bosman

move from one country to it quite clear the decisions seems to be a very restriction another sit out 180 days be apply to all sports," the tive move," he said.

Olympic champion would run his first indoor race of the

season in Stuttgart tomorrow, but a change in schedule means that the crowd in the

National Indoor Arena in Bir-

mingham are in for a double treat, with Sally Gunnell

making her first appearance in Britain since 1994.

"The commissioner made

tion on Thursday to questions about England's selection pol-icy, beginning with one about whether he was aware that, as Rowell had said the previ-"No, I wasn't aware of it."
Carling said. "He hasn't asked me to speak to players and he hasn't spoken to me in

"I'm not saying anything of-ficially. All I'm saying is that I don't sit in on selections. I

ference banter, ready to squash an impertment questioner with a sardonically raised eyebrow. But at this moment his demeanour was very different: quiet, thoughtful, puzzled, regretful. And those replaying their tapes of the meeting suddenly found themselves listening with when somebody mentioned David Campese's recent criti-David Campese's recent criti-cisms of Rowell's régime.
Carling was asked if the squad had 100 per cent confi-dence in their manager.
"Yeah," he replied. "Abso-lutely. No problem. No prob-lem." If Carling was genu-Union had planned to bring its residency qualification down from 120 days to a week, but even this may

inely intending to convey exactly that message to the media, the cadence of his phrases — the unemphatic tone, the upward inflections, the failure to go further —

Christie returned to Britain ing in Australia has been pro-rom Australia on Tuesday gessing and also warm him fiber whining two 100 metres up for next weekend's more at the world championships

important clash in the same stadium against Bruny Surin

of Canada, the world silver

medal winner and indoor

Earlier this week, in Lon-

The "putting it right" had better begin not with a jourstatement, something other than a total commitment to

in Rowell. whose job is now to restore The success and popularity the esprit de corps, starting of Carling's team gave with his captain. A win over English rugby the impetus to epiter the age of professional-ism. Inheriting a well-grooved side from Cooke, Rowell first Wales would help but it may be that Rowell's criticisms have reminded Carling of the autumm of 1994, when the new manager, after bringing the side back from a South Afripresided over a record series of 10 victories before a traumatic defeat in the World Cup semi-final last summer inaucan tour, pointedly delayed the reconfirmation of the incumbent captain in the rungurated the current and les enviable sequence of four de-feats in five matches. In some up to the World Cup. That was the first crack in minds, impatient with Rowell's efforts to rebuild the team, a further reverse today the façade of their relationship. Today, as England em-bark at Twickenham on their against an untried Wales side quest for the Triple Crown, it

nalist but with Jack Rowell

may be beyond repair.

itiatoh previews, page 11

Rowell's long-standing promise to persuade England towards a more enlightened style looked forlorn in the decentage game, with Rowell blaming poor on-field decisions by the senior players, among whom he identified the captain.

would call the entire regime

into question.

the idea of the squad's belief

Carling's reaction to these suggestions was at first evasive. "I didn't bear him say it, so I'm not going to commen on it," he said, before adding "Sure, there were some wrong decisions made. Bu there were far more right ones. People will always make mistakes and I'm not one for dwelling on them, as I'm not pointing a finger at

anyone."
"This is a very complex time for the England players," Rowell said, suggesting that some of the ser ers are performing badly be-cause they miss their old col-leagues — "the chaps you're very friendly with, who you

last summer, had not been in-

Thus began the war of

words prior to this year's

Olympics. Christie has yet to commit himself publicly to

Atlanta; Bailey is convinced he will be there.

jured before that race.

Keegan and a Batty bit of thinking



David Lacey

EVIN KEEGAN presumably knows what he is doing. He has not done badly so far. Admittedly the player he wants has a recent history of injuries, but he can still be a for-midable opponent. And while some may occasionally feel he should be locked up, he has done nothing that would war-rant a call from the Tyneside

constabulary yet.
Nevertheless, the question still needs to be put: why on surth should Newcastle United want to sign David Batty, surely the negation of all Keegan has achieved at St

James' Park so far? However, this is no time no attack Batty, one Guardian reader (Graeme Le Saux) hav-ing already done as much this season. Maybe Keegan was thinking of applying the prin-ciple of better the davil you know. Certainly any manager willing to pay 28.7 million plus £26,000 a week for a gun-toting Colombian with a fiveyear-old knee injury must be-lieve he has God on his side.

Faustino Asprilia would appear to be well-equipped for a Saturday night out in Bigg Market. He might or might not be the answer to Newcastle's final push for the title. The issue is whether a projected signing of this sort marks the point at which football manseries of expensive foreign

shopping expeditions. At least Batty is English. Amid the post-Bosman confuion the fact that ending of imitations on foreigners applied only to EU nationals appears to have been forgotten.

Nearly 10 per cent of those playing in the Premier and Endsleigh leagues are foreign and the figure is rising. Gordon Taylor, the chief execu-tive of the Professional Footballers' Association, wents the tide stemmed but shares Canute's realisation that this s easier said than done. Blanket condemnations of

less. One season of Klinsmann at Tottenham was worth five of almost anybody else, and no-one would have wanted to miss Oo-Ah. Nobody would wish to deprive Chelsea sup-porters of the pleasures of watching Gullit and Petrescu. and the prospect of Vialli being added to Glenn Hoddle's attack is an intriguing one.

Overseas players, more-over, have brought a degree of sophistication to the domestic game which can only enhance the performances of the homegrown products. Philippe Albert of Newcastle and Derby's Igor Stimac, for exam-ple, are playing in a land which has remained largely

ignorant of the sweeper's art.
Yet at a time when the Footbell Association wants to nurture the country's talents, the rush to buy foreign must be counter-productive in the long run. Success has to be instant. Nobody can afford to wait for the seeds to grow, so West Ham United, whose East End academy produced 25 per cent of England's 1966 World Cup team, have now added Dani, a young Portuguese, to a squad that already includes a Czech, a Croatian, a Roma-

nian, and a Dane. "If I could build a team of lads from Essex and the East End I would," said Harry Redknapp, the West Ham man ager. "But I need to strengthen the squad now. He also has to pay reasonable

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nes his canto

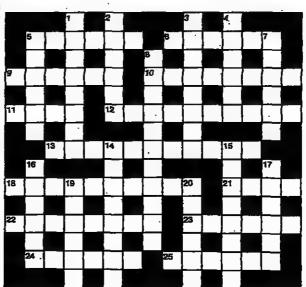
ANY of the figures products are beyond reason, and the wage demands of some very ordinary footballers are iomething a Bain. So the at traction of better-equipped im ports is understandable. But ultimately they will do no more for English football than they did for the British motor

industry. Forty-five years ago Sweden's centre-forward, Hans Jeppson, spent three months in London on a business course and during his short stay helped Charlton avoid relegation. Fresh restrictions on overseas players followed but now, with a growing tendency to sign forligners on short-term contracts, the game has come full

For Hackney Marshes, then, read Pripet Marshes. Not many Rodney Marshes to be found there, either.

used to, with Geoff, but Jack Guardian (00) IIINS Crossword 20,566 has a different style." Carling is a confident charous day, certain players were feat by France two weeks ago. England fell back on the perin danger of being dropped. acter, at ease with press con-

A copy of the Collins English Dictionary will be sent to the first five correct entries drawn. Entries to Guardian Crossword No 20,566, Reference Marketing, Harper Collins Publishing, 77-85 Fulham Palace Road, London, W6 8JB, by first post on Friday. Solution and winners in the Guardian on Monday February 12.



Set by Bunthorne

Across 5 I say! Which doctor has failed degree? Name! (6)

6 Where, initially, Lemuel's alternative projections upset the Academy (6) 9.10 From whom "Th' Egoist" emerged. Right? No way!

11 This sailor going into the woods? On the contrary (4) 12 A painter leaves Turkey's capital in case blame

attaches to last production 13 Go-betweens scientist re-

18 He wrote "Abide With Me" in dread of a hell-raiser (4,6) 21 Flora's part in risky

22 See 23 23,22 Mousetrap manufacturer has a theatric force, I find

24 A Latin-Hindu goddess with a base in the lab (6) 25 Not still in Alabama? (6) Down

1 Rough Australian poet taking scripture to heart (8) 2 "The Father of Male Offspring* (Richardson) (6) 3 The composer of

"Homblower", for one (8)

4 Self-styled scholar made it

Ex-Cathedra adage as a reciprocal diversion? (6) 7 Liberal arts having a resurgence: it's immaterial (6)

8 Takes the calumet with Amerindian number in disguise (11)

City, one's hat could be raised . . . (8) 15 ... and, still from the City,

carried away (8) 16 Thus Greek type attracts a

17 Sino-fructiferous content of Caerphility cheese (7) 19 The call of The Unspeak-able: it almost makes you

sick! (6) 20 Gunners capturing East on the ground (6)

We are sorry that the wrong grid appeared with the cross-word in yesterday's Guardian. Congratulations to those readers who succeeded in

constructing their own grid FOSAIC CLOSET UN ED BRY A COMEUPTOSCRATCH COMEUPTOSCRATCH
C I I I I V T
CHARON SOUVENTR
I I I I I I
CRESCENT EXILED BODENT GADDIS

CROSSWORD SOLUTION 20,565

Stephen Bierley

I went to the local state comprehensive. Apart from a bit of bullying, some racial abuse and few bouts of lovesickness, I had little cause to shed boyish tears. The only clue that I was a year younger than my peers was that my report cards used to say I was immature, although this turned out to be a permanent character trait rather than anything to do with my age. Gary Younge

The race gives Christie a don, Donovan Bailey, Cana-chance to see how his train- da's gold medal winner in

constructs (11)

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over the railways

13 Saturday February 3

OUIL OO

In at the death of old man Dole

Just weeks ago the White House beckoned, but it's all gone wrong again for the Republican nearty-man. JONATHAN FREEDLAND watches his campaign crash

ILENCE is golden, unless you're running for presi dent. If you're dent silence is chilly, grey and unwelcome. It's the sound you never want to hear, for it is not silence at all: it is a distress signal. Bob Dole heard it this week at the Top of the Tree ple fac-Hampshire (there's a Derry just down the road). The Senate majority leader — who until a few days ago had the words "Republican presiden tial frontrunner" glued to his name — was engaged in what they call "retail politics", the hand-to-hand combat of meeting real voters in small venues. He was doing the candidate thing - making a campaign stop at a small, new-ish husiness, shaking hands, posing for cameras, rattling

off a short speech. But there was no noise. He appeared suddenly, mobbed by cameras, boom microphones forming a forest above his head a fixed smile on his face. He waved in the direction of no one in particular, inspecting a line of processed apples. He nodded and mumbled inconsequenti-ally, as candidates will. He glided along, the governor of New Hampshire on one side.

the factory owner on the other.
A crowd was there, as handpicked as the apples. But it remained utterly noiseless, like an audience watching mime. Perhaps they under-stood that, as extras in a photoop, they didn't need to make a sound. One silver-haired man, tried to break the silence with a "Hello, Bob!" and a short, weak cheer went up. But the

room soon filled once again with deathly quiet. Such a response is extremely bad news for Bob Dole. It is a sign, as if one were needed, of the deep trouble he's in. Winning candidates make rooms buzz and people jump. Men on their way to the White House inspire a rock star clamour. This was a response for Val Doonican. But the episode, like the rest

of Mr Dole's day in New Hamp shire, was revealing not just of the ailing fortunes of the man who until recently believed destiny was about to grasp his hand. It was also an oddly typical moment in what is a singularly strange, comic shallow, paradoxical and intoxicating process: the elec-

the organisation, and, above all, the timing, after two previous attempts, in 1980 and 1988, this year would, at last, be Bob Dole's turn. But US politics, not for the first time, has departed from the script. Bob Dole is no longer the frontrun-ner: a poll on Thursday in New Hampshire showed him fully nine points behind zillionaire publisher, Malcolm
"Steve" Forbes, the tycoonnerd with Mr Magoo glasses
who's come from nowhere to dominate the campaign.

Dole cannot afford to lose New Hampshire, the state whose first-in-the-nation status has made it a king-

tion of an American president A month ago, the 1996 campaign was already written off as a giant snooze. Bob Dole was a shoo-in, a frontrunner who'd already lapped his opponents. He had the money,

compounded by saturation 1 v advertising aimed directly at him by Steve Forbes. When the publishing heir isn't hawking his miracle cure flatmaker. No Republican has ever won the presidency withdipping into his own personal out winning New Hampshire first, and Dole was supposed to fortune (estimated at roughly

win it big. Two months ago, polls showed the sengtor head of his rivals by margins

of up to 30 per cent.
The shine has gone now, stripped first by Dole's performance giving the Republican response to President Clinton's State of the Union eddress last week. Dole looked like a mortician, an animated cadayer in lighting that dwelt cruelly on every line of his 72-year-old face. He stumbled with the autocus, and looked lonely addressing the nation not in a packed, applauding chamber — as Clinton had — but in a sterile office. Where Clinton had been John F Ken nedy, Dole was Bela Lugosi. The rot set in that night, as Republicans drew the conclu-

sion that could disqualify Dole from the nomination he can't beat Clinton. Days later Newsweek captured the mood, with a brooding cover under the single line: "Doubts About Dole." The onslaught has been compounded by saturation T

everyone — he's been carpet bombing Dole in what politi-cal consultants call the "air war". (Old-fashioned campaigning is the "ground war".
"Let's face it," the former
frontrunner said a few hours after the pie factory, at a dinner for bank managers and computer executives at the Merrimack Chamber of Comful. You buy enough of it, you're going to get your mes-sage through." Because he's

half a billion dollars), Forbes is not bound by the usual campaign spending rules. That means he can buy enough TV time in pivotal states like New Hampshire and Iowa to make his face the brand leader, the

Coca-Cola of candidates, Dole riends fear Forbes could do to him what Gary Hart did to Walter Mondale in 1984: damge him so badly in the primaries, that even if he wins the nomination, he's too bruised to take on the president. But these are just the imme unbidden moment of silence in Londonderry. In fact, the

> make rooms buzz. Men on their way to power inspire a rock star clamour. The response to Bob Dole was like one

trouble for Bob Dole goes much deeper. For the political temper of

the United States has turned against everything Bob Dole represents — and the mood has turned sharpest inside the Republican Party. Dole has the misfortune to be a veteran Washington politician just as each of those words has become an insult.
"Not a Washington Politi-

cian," boasts Steve Forbes' TV ad, as if that alone signalled integrity. Fellow presidential

candidate, Lamar Alexander, wears a red plaid shirt to telegraph his distance from the "professional politicians up there in Washington". This popular insurgency was first revealed by the outsider cardidacy of the billionaire Texan Ross Perot in 1992, and it has

only grown since. Everyone from the radical armed militias to President Clinton now says they oppose big government — and the Congress stands as a symbol of it. The result is that politiclans have become forced to denounce the very trade they're in.

Winning candidates for Val Doonican

> For Bob Dole this comes ery hard. He cannot play the outsider, because he has lived on the inside for so long: he has been in public office consistently for 46 years, nearly a quarter of the entire history of

the Republic.
"He's part of the machine,"
says Pat Moaquin, a business
man at the chamber of commerce dinner. "Too much of an insider, I think," Varia-tions on that theme are offered by everyone you speak to, in-cluding those who say they are

impressed" by Dole and admire him.

All this has a distinctly polgnant quality, because it is just such rotten luck. For 36 years, Bob Dole has laboured in the Congress, served on all the right committees, moving patiently up the hierarchy – just as custom dictated you must. In recent years, he has become one of those perenn faces: turn on the TV and there he is, in the chamber, in a suit and tie, even on a Sunday. Toiling away with amendments and procedural motions, while his contemporaries are playing with their grandchildren.

But now it looks like it might all have been for nough the prize robbed from him by a little rich boy who inher ted a fortime and never shared a basement with six siblings in a "hard scrabble" mid-western town called Rus-sell, Kansas. (Dole's parents rented out the upstairs of their own home to strangers to make ends meet.)

What's worse, this has hap-pened before. Another rich man, George Herbert Walker Bush, toppled Dole in 1988. He was the frontrunner, then too. The final blow came in New Hampshire. Bitter, Bob Dole reminded Americans then that "nobody gave it to me. I didn't have rich and powerful parents. I made it the hard

It has been a life of defeat, often at the hand of had timing; chairman of the Republican Party just as Watergate broke; Gerald Ford's running mate in 1976. when Jimmy Carter won by just 2 per cent; and a brutal wound to the hand in the last days of the second world war

- he has lived in constant and sharp pain ever since. Now Bob Dole seems to have

nistimed what he calls the "one last mission" for his generation — and for him. He appears in front of people who revile the political process, who lap up talk of "revolution" and "abolition", and offers sentences salted with these words: committee, hearing, testify, commission, proposal. His speechwriter is a lew steps away, urging him to deliver a grander vision. "I believe this election is a defining moment in our history," he says. But Bob Dole is not looking the crowd in the eye; he's

reading the line off a cue card. "I hope he can play the lion-in-winter card," says Bill Kristol, editor of the conservative Weekly Standard, "There's something moving about the guy's stoicism,

Moving, yes, but painful, too. There is a twinge of the unpleasant about a political process that asks a 72-year-old man to stand in a car dealer's showroom in Nashua, New Hampshire, and sell himself like a used Buick - and to repeat the pitch over and over and over again for the better part of two years. Dole's aides refer to this last strait of the campaign as "closing the sale" — but there's not a business in the world that would ask its salesmen to undergo a nen to undergo an

ordeal like this "Running for president requires the discipline to be repetitive," says Texas rival Phil Gramm, and he's right. Candidates have to repeat the same speech until their gums bleed; journalists have to cover events that are not events, but kabuki theatre in which nothing real happens.

Photo: JOE MARQUETTE

Advisors have to say things they know are not true — "I couldn't be more pleased with the way things are going. says Dole communications director Mari Will - and repor-

ters report them anyway. The centrality of the media Daign events are not for the watching them. Dole toured a micro brewery on Wednesday. sampling a beer called Old Man Ale, which he pro-nounced "young and fresh". Earlier an aide had cancelled the stop, fearing the obvious headlines. The governor of New Hampshire then Inter vened on the brewery's behalf. In other words, an event whose sole purpose was media attention was cancelled because of fears of media attention and then restored thereby ensuring media atten-

The whole insane spin cycle is compelling as sport, and American voters follow it more closely than most foreigners would believe. But presidential politics is a world of its own. The new, anony mously-authored hit novel. Primary Colors - which depicts the 1992 Democratic primary season — remarks that the candidates and their staffs live "outside time", sleeping little, eating at midnight, never at rest. But some-times "the campaign falls away and you remember: other people just have lives. Their normality can seem a reproach. It hurts your eyes, like walking out of a matince into bright sunlight." The trouble for Bob Dole is that



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Policing a global village

ET NO ONE think that the US Telecommunications Bill - which was overwhelmingly approved by Congress yesterday — is simply an American affair. It is true that key parts of it merely bring to the US the depth of deregulation (like allowing cable television companies to compete in the telephone market) that the UK pioneered years ago. But it is much more than that and we may live to regret some of its excesses. It not only lays down the ground rules for the information technology revolution along Jeffersonian principles of univer-sal and affordable access (backed by \$20 billion of subsidies so the revolution can reach high cost regions of the continent) but also sets up draconian legislation for the policing of cyberspace. This will affect internet users all over the world. The bill, to be signed by President Clinton within a week, will ban the transmission of any communication by word or image deemed "indecent" if the recipients could be under 18 years old. Since computer-literate under 18-yearolds are regular Net users this electronic version of the Lady Chatterley trial

could trigger a wave of censorship which could undermine the libertarian culture of the Net while seeming to contradict the First Amendment's protection of freedom of speech. Fines of up to \$250,000 or prison will be imposed on distributors of "indecent" material including, it seems, the "seven dirty words" and texts of classics like Ulysses. There are fears that Christian fundamentalists will even use the law to prevent discussion of abortion. There is a strong case for preventing pornography from being easily available to people under age but this can, and must, be done in a way that doesn't prevent adults from reading or writing anything that isn't acceptable to

More positively, the bill also makes it mandatory for all future television sets to be equipped with a "V chip" enabling parents to prevent their children from watching unsuitably violent or explicit films unless they key in a password permitting it. If this is popular it will only be a matter of time before something similar happens over here. British politicians will also take a keen interest in what happens to Senator Dole's (so far ill-fated) proposals to auction radio spectrum instead of giving it away free. Mr Dole calls this "corporate welfare" and reckons that an astonishing \$70 billion could be raised in this way to spend on better things. He has a point which ought not to be lost on the Labour Party as it tries to fathom ways of financing an expanding welfare state from a diminishing number of people able and willing to pay tax. The senator dropped his amendment in order to let the bill pass but has pledged to get it reversed later.

The final lesson for Britain from the bill is that the Government should free British Telecom to compete freely with the cable companies. At the moment as part of the Conservatives' pioneering deregulation - cable companies in the UK (nearly all of them North American) can provide television and telephony down the same line whereas BT can only offer telephone communication. In America both cable corporations and telephone companies will now be able to compete with each other, thereby enabling the regional "Baby Bells" to take on the cable companies and vice versa. This could lower prices not just in the US but internationally as well. The Government should forthwith complete the revolution it started by unshackling British Telecom. The global village surely deserves a level playing field.

Taxing time for graduates

REE tuition at university is coming to an end. Some may rightly say it ended some years ago. More than three years ago the Government's education inspectors reported arts and design students were having to pay up to £1,000 a year for course material. The average polytechnic in 1990 had a book budget of £23 per pupil - £3 less than the average cost of an academic tome at the time. The cause of such academic cost-cutting is not hard to identify. Britain has moved

from an élite to a mass system of higher education within a decade. It is only eight years since the then Education Secretary, Kenneth Baker, set the country a 25-year goal of lifting the proportion of school-leavers going on to college from 14 to 30 per cent. That proportion was achieved within six years - and would have been even higher today but for the freeze on places imposed by ministers. Just as rewarding has been the steep rise in mature students. Six out of 10 of today's 18-year-olds can expect to enter university or college sooner or later in their lives. There is much to celebrate about this expansion - more equal opportunity, better access to economic ladders, wider opportunities for personal development - and one issue to lament: no political party has explained how this will be financed.

Tory ministers have ducked behind the vice chancellors. Three years ago John Patten declared: "I am going to sit back and wait for the radical movement that is coming from the universities." Radical new ways of using existing facilities were examined: 45 instead of 30-week academic years, seven-day-a-week lectures, two-year degrees. Various finance schemes were examined to plug the widening gap between the subsidies which universities receive and the cost of providing tuition. Top-up fees were looked at by some institutions. The vice chancellors' club devised a full cost fees scheme with income related scholarships to protect the poor but then pulped the paper before it was published. Now they are examining £300 registration fees for new students, but stepped back yesterday from taking a decision. They meet

the Education Secretary next week when they will urge her to set up a long-term review of government funding.

Until now universities have concentrated on squeezing costs. By 1990 the old polytechnics and some universities were receiving about one third less per pupil than a decade earlier. Since then, the squeeze has continued. Total subsidies have risen by almost 25 per cent but because of the increase in student numbers, the subsidy per pupil has fallen by a further 25 per cent. Any further squeeze will seriously erode standards. So what should they do?

The need is to maintain pressure on all three main political parties. Labour talked two years ago about tuition contributions from better-off students but postponed its paper in the hope ministers would have to move first. Lib-Dems have been equally timid but they announced yesterday they would be publishing plans later this month backing long-term tuition loans with repayments through income tax or national insurance contributions. Governments of both the left (Sweden) and the right (Germany) have adopted such schemes. An even more popular model, backed by the vice chancellors, is the Australian graduate tax. Even the National Union of Students (NUS) initially supported this idea. Further procrastination is unacceptable. Student numbers have been rising at the equivalent rate of three new universities a year. This is beyond belt-tightening: it needs bucks. A graduate tax looks the best option: cheaper to administer, less likely to deter, raises more revenue than loans. In short, the fairest way of repaying the benefits of university life.

Armageddon may be receding but no country is yet prepared to jettison nuclear weapons or the ambition to own them. The best the world can hope for, says MARTIN WOOLLACOTT. is that the test ban treaty - the covenant with hell first signed half a century ago - goes on. **litustration** by PETER TILL



Bargaining with the Bomb

VERY major nation comes to nuclear disarma- special history of involvement in the seductive and terrible mystery of these weapons. To say that the result is therefore a charade is not quite true. But it is certomly a drama played out on

The Geneva talks on banning nuclear tests are pre-sented as a step toward a world free of nuclear weapons. which they may in the end prove to be. What they are in the meantime is an intense the nuclear powers and the states who already coverily POS sess nuclear weapons or have the technology to acquire them quickly. Both groups are split, and neither has any plans to give up their weapons or their capacity or all the options for improving either. At a flurd point of the triangle are countries without these weapons but who may have connections of alliance or in-

terest with those who do. What the talks are about is the terms on which nations can live with each other in a world where these devices have lost. less of their allure than we had

This week in Geneva the Swedes called on China to follow France's example and end testing, and the Australians. South Africans and Japanese also welcomed France's deci-sion. The Americans, backed by the British and the suddenly virtuous French, are urging agreement on a comprohensive test ban treaty by lune, so that nations can begin signing up by this September. The Indians, meanwhile, are ambiguou about whether or not they

eserve the right to test. Read between the lines in the speeches. Sweden, while striving to be, in Olof Palme's words, a " moral great power, considered developing its own bomb 20 years ago. France has made the Bomb into the single most important symbol of its determination that it should be able to stand alone and.

ered without a second's

even now, believes that its nuclear strength can be traded off against the superior economic strength of Germany. Australia, now one of the anti

nuclear leaders, let the British test in the country's interior. Britain itself has from the start considered the Bomb to be, as Ernest Bevin said, its ticket to the top table. The South Africans secretly devel oped a nuclear device, part of their doomed effort to hold off the inevitable through armed might. The Japanese have had the means to bring together warhead and delivery techno ogy, to create an overnight

Russia, whose moratorium on testing renewed the hopes that a comprehensive test ban treaty could be achieved, is as attached to the symbolism of nuclear weapons as any country. Gorbachey inherited situation in which Russia had striven for world power status by building up nuclear armaments. Paradoxically, he maintained that status, for a while, by reducing them. Now, in a changed atmosphere, different signals are coming out of Russia. China, twisting and turning at Geneva to retain the opportunity to test into the mid-term future, has good reason to recall, at this moment of renewed tension over Taiwan, the days in 1954 and 1968 when

they bombarded that island but had to back down when the United States made it clear that a full scale attack might meet with an American nuclear response. Out of those humiliations was born the enhanced Chinese nuclear weapons programme, one of whose objectives is undoubtedly still to overawe Taiwan and inhibit forceful American reactions. The Chinese mili-tary is demanding a wide range of nuclear weapons, space-based early warning, and missile defences. It does not rule out fighting some kind of nuclear war. The Chinese see nuclear weapons, in other words, as essential in their long struggle to achieve the regional dominance and

As for India, it is ironic that the whole test ban concept, now over 40 years old, sprang from an Indian initiative. In 1954, the Nehru government proposed to the nuclear pow ers what it called a "standstill agreement." Today, the Indian government say they want a clear timetable for the elimination of nuclear weapons by the existing nuclear powers a a condition for India's signature. They do not, of course, believe that there is any likell-hood of this. What the Indians really want, it seems likely, is to upgrade their own weapons, either by testing or by getting technical help from the existing nuclear powers, or both. They see such an upgrading as vital in deterring China, and a Pakistan receiving nuclear weapons assistance from China. They have just tested a nuclear-capable missile, which the Pakistanis say would reduce warning time to two to three minutes. It is per-fectly possible that the Indians will choose the "test and sign" option, while still agitat-ing for technology transfers — in computer simulation, even in warhead designs — from the United States.

Nuclear weapons retain their attraction, whatever the theorists and the moralists say about their uselessness and viciousness. A Sweden or an Australia may now genuinely champion nuclear disarmament. But, across much of the world, nations either possess nuclear weapons or come under the nuclear umbrella of other powers. Governments believe they need them for rational security reasons: they also cling to them because nuclear weapons un-doubtedly constitute a kind of dark magic which politicians and soldiers recognise and want to possess. They are com plicit in a nuclear armed world. The Indian prime minister, P V Narasimha Rao, said recently that the estab lished nuclear powers want to "hold on to their awesome arsenals, kept trim by sophis ticated computer simulation techniques, while they want all others to look on with empty hands." What he did not add was that the non-established nuclear powers, the existing bolders of concealed or all-but nuclear weapons technology, have an agenda too. That agenda always involves upgrading to a point where an advantage has been achieved over a potential nemy, with an expri readiness then to stop. In other words both groups want the same thing — to reach and maintain a position of nuclear

armed advantage.
Through four decades of intermittent negotiations, the main obstacle to progress in banning tests, we were told, lay in the problem of verification. The problem is no longer verification, if it ever was. It is that countries want to keep their nuclear weapons, but at the same time are ready to bargain about creating a hierarchy of nuclear capacity as lone as their place in it fits in with national interests. This, then, is going to be a treaty about relative position rather than about reducing nuclear weapons. It is still worth hav ing, if only because it will in-hibit the nuclear have-nots

from trying to join the club. But, if we are to get a com-prehensive test ban treaty, the nuclear nations, the "haves" and the "almost haves" alike will have to be appeased. In the next three years, China will continue to test, and India may test. Both India and Pakistan will have to be satisfied that the nuclear balance in the subcontinent, and with China is at least bearable. An Arab diplomatic ambush of Israel, the other obvious possessor of nuclear weapons, will have to be pre-empted. The pressure for technology transfers so that "We don't have to test" will continue from India, and perhaps from other states. The ovenant with hell first signed half a century ago goes on and all that can be said is that

Children of the evolution



Sara Maitland

fertilised ova by freezing became possible, it was de cided in law that five years was a reasonable time to keep them. This summer we will his the end of the first time limit. It is necessarily decision time— what are we going to do with them? Particularly the (ap-proximate) 3,000 whose "gen-erators" cannot be traced.

Please note the inverted commas round the ugly word "generators". Part of the problem is that we do not know rhat word to use. We do not know what word to use be cause we are undecided about

what these gametes are. Obviously they are not "babies", because no one would be allowed to leave a baby in a freezing cold place: social services would have the child in foster care in no time. Equally obviously, they are not redundant tissue from a useful medical procedure because no one would be worried: the preservation of ampu-tated limbs or extracted appen-

dices does not concern us. We don't know what they are and we don't know whose they are. The two are related. The Mail quoted a woman yes terday: "If we were talking about any of my 14 embryos currently frozen, I'd much rather they were used for me ical research . . [than] do nated to other couples. You wouldn't know who on earth was giving birth to what is essentially your child." Lucky for Solomon that this woman didn't appear in his legendary

I am not trying to demonise her, she is caught on the sharp end of a real problem and trying to think her way through i without adequate vocabulary or grammar, but, then, who

The real questions lurk in her phrase "essentially your child". Does she mean "essen tially yours" or "essentially a child"? (Do we even know what essentially means here?) If it is *child*, it cannot be yours" because a child is not a thing that can be owned, not even by law, though we have a collective duty of care. If it is not a child, an untraceable fro-zen gamete is simply lost property and can be disposed of in the most sensible way: de-

stroyed or donated to someone

who wants it.
This is logical, but it is not good enough. I don't know what is good enough. I am feeling uncomfortable. Do I own my body and its products? Is an embryo a "product"? Do I have something analogous to a "right" to have a baby? Can I ask other people to pay me for that? If they have done so, do they own it? Is it "mine"? The answer is that I don't know and I have a responsibility now to decide without knowing. That is scary.

Scary but not unique. We often have to decide without knowing all the facts. But in most cases we have some guidelines — we have a broadly agreed vocabulary, and some not necessarily conscious storylines, or myths, to shape our thoughts

Right now we need some new stories, new myths, and we need them urgently. Along the issue in this week's papers there was a long article here by Henry Porter, lamenting the loss of literature. He must have been reassured by the hand-ling of this subject. We had explicit references to Huxley's Brave New World, implicit ref-erences to Mary Shelley's Frankenstein and a deeply Romantic use of the words 'nature" and "natural".

form us, but not very usefully. We fall back on them easily: wanting a baby and going on complicated quests, even trading with magicians to acquire one, is natuother hand, is unnatural uncontrollable, dangerous. There is a conflict, and it is easy to blame the scientists. But the problem is not that we have a "technology we can't control", rather that we have a "technology we don't know how we vant to control". That is not

the same thing. We need some new and more sophisticated stories. We do not all have to agree; we do myths about our origins and the discovery that the earth as not at the centre of the universe and have created vital and beautiful new descriptions of ourselves in the light of that. This is small by comparison. How does a multi-cultural society enter into structuring the collective imagination. Perhaps, at the

tayers call it !! the new been not workers i gaposter mai DWARD PILL

HESE literary myths obviously do still in-

need to explore, creatively and sensitively, a shared set of new relationships. Historically this is not impossible: we survived very least, we could try to see it as more exciting than scary.

Smallweed



MALLWEED is inces-Santly asked: who was the last British politician to appear at the Cabinet table wearing a beard? My answer, invariably deliv-

hesitation, is always the same: I haven't the slightest idea. But the chances of beards cropping up (or more often. down) in this sector in future could become even thinner. Image consultants are said to be warning aspirant Labour MPs to get rid of their beards, on the grounds And pre-eminence in a beard is still more unlikely

on the Tory side. Margaret Thatcher was known to regard them as an impass-able roadblock on the path to preferment. Only three Conservative beardos survive: Robert Jones, promoted a junior minister by John Major after Maggie had shunned him: the rampaging extrovert Jerry Hayes: and that other Tory chap with a beard. Yet a picture of Gladstone's 1883 Cabinet in Roy



Jenkins's recent biography shows at least five certain beards in a field of 14. plus suggestive sproutings under one or two other chins. The

Marquess of Hartington (later the 8th Duke of Dev-onshire) who once briefly replaced the great man as leader, has a snorter. The best beard of all in Jenkins' book, though, is the Tory Marquess of Salisbury's, so luxurious a concoction that a smaller prime minster — Lord John Russell. for instance - could have hid-



the prominence in world af-

fairs they think they deserve.

Bearded wonders . . . Salisbury, Shephard and Major

den in it for weeks without fear of detection. Yet no one called Salisbury shifty or radical. If the Conservative Party seeks to recover the pre-eminence it enjoyed in the Marquess's heyday, today's Cabinet titans (far right) might use-fully seek to model themselves on him. The true source of this cultural change, however, may be the royal family. Though Victoria herself was cleanshaven, the Prince Consort had a natty moustache and.

so lavish that they more or ess met under his chin. The Prince of Wales (later Ed-ward VII) was vastly bearded, as was George V. But the present royal core eam have hardly a whisker between them. Why?

OT CONTENT with the constant mouthing of soundbites, today's leading politicians have de-veloped a ghastly taste for catchphrases — the sort of largely meaningless observations which comedi-ans used to convulse their nore convulsable audience in the 1950s. Labour frontbenchers try to work "lurch to the Right" into their condemnations of Tories. Last week, however, marked a standards as Tory after Tor invoked the party's new charge that the Labour

Party Says One Thing But Does Another (SOTADA). Debates and question sessions all week have been peppered with SOTADAS. plus such tasteful variants as SOTADTO (Says One Thing And Does The Other)

though it will be, is better than the alternative.

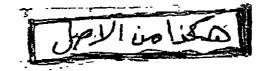
SOTADSE (Says One Thing And Does Something Else), WILPSAWID (What The Labour Party Says And What It Does), and the ex-travagantly-bearded AI-SOTCWTLPHEOCAT PAEDM (As Is So Often The Case With The Labour Party, He Exercised One Choice And Then Preached An Entirely Different Message). David Shaw, the entic ing Tory MP who the other day accused David Blunkett of tunnel vision, even had his colleagues chanting choruses of SOTADA to liven up one of his speeches Since paper is so expensive, and Hansard costs £5 a

throw, could Smallweed suggest that in future they spare us the actual words and simply print the

MAY have asked this before, but no one answered, so I'll ask it again. Is there not a case, prima facie and perhaps even tu quoque, for saying that fantasy football leagues are libellous? I think of the fate of Keith Branagan, custodian for Bolton Wanderers, who in one of these entertainments has the highest negative rating of anyone in the eague. Might some not deduce from this that Brana. gan is not very competent? Bad enough to have to keep goal behind the present Bolton defence without this unwarranted obloquy. I'm sure that Sir Arthur Conan

used to keep goal for Ports-mouth FC under the alias A C Smith, would never have stood for it.

OES NOT LORD Hanson's decision to give the name Hampton to his projected new town in the Fens argue a curious lack of originality? The country is full of Hamptons already, many desperately trying to distinguish themselves from the rest by suf-fixes like Bishop, Charles, Gay, Loade, Lodge, Maisey, Poyle and best of all Wafer (Herefordshire). He might at least have commemorated his old business partner Lord White by calling the place Whitehampton, which no one has so far used. Still, at least it's some consolation, I suppose, given his lordship's political views, that the place Doyle, who, I recently read, | won't be called Sotada.



Hands across the Atlantic



Martin Kettle

EW LABOUR being what it is, there is lit-tle doubt where its most eagerly received byelection news of the past week came from, and it was no from Hemsworth. Winter byelections in the Yorkshire coalfield are a necessary duty for the men and women who run the disciplined machine that is the modern Labour Party, but even the chance to bury Arthur Scargill's new party's challenge in the first round hardly sets the progres sive blood coursing as it once

New Labour's really welcome news came from gentler climes thousands of miles away on the Pacific coast. It came from the state of Oregon where we learned this week that Sir Francis Drake once pitched his camp and where on Wednesday the Democrat can-didate Ron Wyden captured a Senate by election from the previously all-conquering Republicans after the incumbent had been forced to resign in a sexual harrassment scandal. In itself, Wyden's defeat of his Republican opponent for the vacant Senate seat is of littie practical consequence even in America, where Newt Gingrich's Republican majority remains securely in control, let alone here in Britain. Its indicative value, on the other hand. s something else. It tells Tony

Blair a story which he very much wants to hear. There's a revealing anecdote in the long profile of Blair which appeared in this week's asue of the New Yorker. Reporter Sidney Blumenthal asks Peter Mandelson whether this automo's US presidential contest will be a crucial event for New Labour. "Clinton win? Not unportant," Mandelson re-sponds. "Nothing, No effect." But then, Blumenthal reports,

Mandelson starts to bite his

nails and shake in not entirely mock fear at the prospect. Ron Wyden's victory in Ore-gon this week does not guaranbe that there will be a Tony some time soon, but it is a pretty good sign that there will The connection, as seen by Mandelson and others, is straightforward. Wyden's win throws the Republicans into turmoil, opens up the contest for the Republican presidential nomination still further, thus weakening the Republican challenge to Clinton, who wins re-election in November making John Major's politics look anachronistic and giving Blair's victory in spring 1997 a sense of inevitability and har-

This may all be too neat for comfort. With Bob Dole labour ing under the free-spending as-sault of Steve Forbes in the run-up to the New Hampshire primary, the call has gone out once again to draft a reluctant General Colin Powell to the Republican ticket. If anything were to come of that, Clinton's grip on the black vote would reaken and the re-election strategy might go horribly

nony with the times.

In that case, the conse-quences for New Labour might be rather as Mandelson's ges-tures implied. If Clinton loses in November, what uncertain-ties will not cloud Labour's brow and what hay will the ervatives not make with the fact? Then it will be Blair who will look out of kilter with the times. For the Central

Office strategists, it will be one down, one to go. Can't you just see Brian Mawhinnoy unveiling one of those stupid posters?

It may never happen anyway, not least because Britain may well find itself going to the polls before America but always settled on the home

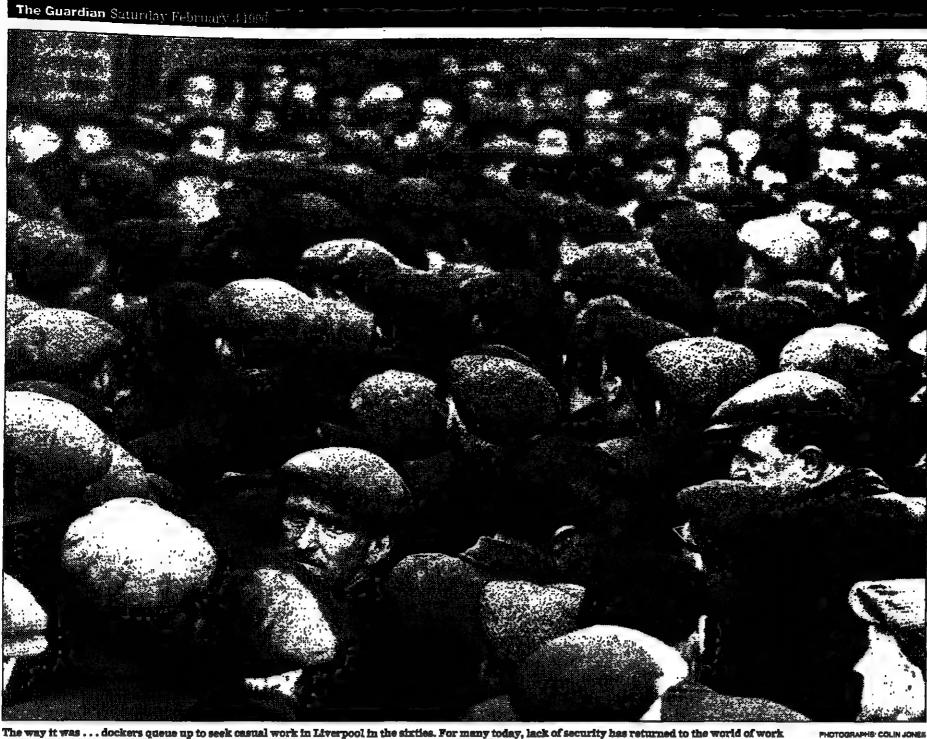
front, not as part of some supposed global trend. Common sense scepticism, you may say, yet it is surprising how many political professionals believe that the connections matter. Perhans this is just because they enjoy flying to America

every couple of years — who would not? — to check on the latest election techniques. Perhaps it is because our political class is still beguiled by the belief that what happens in the last American election will happen in our next one; there's a lot of that about too, in all parties. Or perhaps — and this needs to be taken rather more seriously than it has been so far — the New Labour project has always been rather specially defined in an Anglo-American context, Intellectually, it is, as the New Yorker

Fransatlantic Project. Blair would deny this, I think. He would say that New Labour's mind is open to any interesting ideas and political lessons, wherever they come from. He would point out that he has always taken a special interest in Australia, which is true, and that his recent visit to the Far East underlines his openness to what is happening there too, which is also true. He would say that in the new world of global markets and international deregulation, all parties and governments must take account of all such lessons anyway. And then he would stress, above all, that New Labour has to reach its own solutions and that nobody's blueprint can be transplanted unamended from one country to another anyway.

leaders have always been particularly pre occupied by American political models, and Blair and his advisers are no exceptions. PROPERTY About the least of 1999. Blair and Gordon Brown gob bled up the lessons of the 1992 Clinton-Bush battle at first hand. It was, in Blairspeak, a defining moment, and the future Labour leader returned as the leading advocate of the Party, Brown remains learned in American politics and eco-nomic thinking, as does his adviser Ed Balls. Mandelson is a regular transatlantic visitor and spends holidays there. Jonathan Powell, Blair's chief of staff, spent formative years in the vantage point of the British Embassy in Washington. Philip Gould, Blair's pollster and strategist, worked with the Clinton-Gore campaign and is plugged in to the Democrats. David Miliband, Blair's chief of research, studied at MIT in the late 1980s.

It would be wrong to say that this American orientation is at the expense of other perspectives, especially in Blair's case. But there is no doubt, especially in election year and with Clinton looking like a winner once again, that the principal wellsprings and reservoirs of New Labour thinking and influence are American. The contrast, particularly with European thinking and models, is extremely powerful. No one reads the latest French po litical thinking with the attention they give to the latest American ideas. No one bites their nails at the effect of events in Germany on New Labour. Yet an election in far-away Oregon is watched as though the project depends upon it. It all seems a bit out of



Working backwards

Employers call it flexibility but to the new breed of contract workers it just means greater insecurity, says EDWARD PILKINGTON

FTHE cliché that our selfimage is largely defined by our work is still valid in these fluid, high technology times, then Gary Taylor must have a pretty peculiar picture of himself. "I don't know anybody else who has had as many jobs as I have," he says with understatement. Which is just as well. Over the past 10 years he has held down no less than 14

He works in the fibregiass industry, a business notorious for the fluctuations in its fortunes. For Taylor, a decade of loyal service making and fitting fibreglass car parts, bathroom suites and other household goods has been as comfortable and cosy as a

rickety roller-coaster ride. For most of those years he was frequently on the road, travelling to jobs completed on site and spending weeks, even months, away from home. When trade was good be would be run off his feet, when it hit a trough he would be shown the door with barely a

week's notice. It came as some consolation that he was never unemployed for more than two weeks at a time, but it was hardly a regu-lar life. More like a permanent

state of impermanence.
"Some people couldn't handle it. But after a while I

just got used to being tempo-rary — I just worked as hard as I could, rarely took time off,

never went sick and kept my fingers crossed."
Taylor does not exactly fit the stereotype of the semi-skilled worker: that Soviet realist image of sturdy men always men — streaming through factory gates as the whistle blows; same time, same place, day after day. But his experience of work as a transient, turbulent, shifting condition is becoming in-

creasingly the norm. Temporary work is as old as agriculture, which has always ebbed and flowed with the sea sons. But latest official figures show that the instability bug is rapidly spreading out of seasonal sectors and is begin-ning to infect areas normally perceived as rock solid.
The number of temporary
workers as a whole has grown

by a third in the past five years, to 1.5 million — and in contrast to the Soviet realist stereotype more than half of them are women. A report published this week revealed that the growth is more no-ticeable in some sectors than others, and nowhere more than on the factory floor. Manofacturing has seen an increase in its numbers of workers in temporary posts of

nearly 70 per cent.

What these dry statistics tell us is that a wind of change is sweeping across British in-dustry. Employers say the change is towards greater flexibility, efficiency and competitiveness in a harsh global economy. Unions see it more as change towards greater insecurity, falling wages and di-

"There is a lot said against temporary work," says Lilian Bennett, chairman of Manpower, the country's largest job-placement agency. "But little is said about the advantages to inviduals. In an in-creasingly competitive world, better than no work at all." The wind of change has lary. The concept of transience has been zapped up and repackaged, like the process of sprucing up or Folletting politicians. In an attempt to make a virtue out of necessity advocates have strived to add glamour and remove ancient stigmas. So out goes the old

plain English description
"temporary work". In comes
the new buzz word: short-term The glitz looks distinctly tarnished, however, when viewed from the position of those at the sharp end. Sue Warby is a convenor of the Transport and General Work-ers Union at a Glaxo Wellcome plant in Ware, Hertfordshire, which makes pharmaceutical drugs. She

now has a permanent position with the company, but a few years ago she was employed on a short-term basis. "The contrast is extraordinary. My husband also used to be temporary and he suffered



Fear of losing even badly paid work haunts many

from eczema with the worry. Money came in sporadically, and I can remember when we had to eat semolina made with water - that's how hard it was." Now they "want for nothing", she says, and are able to look ahead. But with her union hat on she continues to witness the impact that insecurity can have on

people's lives. At present Glazo Wellcome employs relatively few tempo rary workers — only 20 out of more than 1,000 staff — but with seasonal variations, that

number can rise.
"The hardest thing is working for six or eight months and then being told you're not

needed any more. One lady

pioneered in Japan, where products are no longer held in storage but only produced as and when there is a demand. and called back to work on the Monday. Imagine how it falt for her being jobless one minute and back at work the as a whole, say firms that rely to some extent on short-term

The ripple of uncertainty passing through the heart of British manufacturing has long been an intimate feature of life, from catering to public services. Anne — she asked for her real name not to be used — works as an unqualiusen — works as an unquan-fied nursing assistant in a hos-pital in southern England. She has been on short-term contracts for the past six years, gradually working her

way up the casual ladder. She began as the lowest of the low — a "bank" worker, which mount she was effectively on monthly contracts. worked regularly on the same ward for two years, but it (lidn't feel like that as I never knew if I would be working

She gradually improved her lot and has now succeeded in ascending to the dizzy heights of someone on a two year contract. The problem is that it terminates next February, and she is already fretting about what lies ahead. With two small children at home, a return to irregular shift pat-terns would destroy her do-

mestic calm. Employers are moving into short-term contracts because it allows them to fine-tune labour costs according to the amount of work available. It spares them costly and cum-bersome redundancy procedures and makes them argu ably more customer sensitive The fashion has been set by so-

called "just-in-time" practices

a fibreglass factory in Wigan, Lancashire, but has now been aken on permanently. He still can't believe his luck. "It's taking a while for it to sink in — my future is more secure. It's been a long haul and I learnt how to deal with t. But you can only cope with

being temporary so long."

That's good for the economy

contracts, such as Raleigh

bleyeles or Black & Decker.

But Anne's experience sug-

She feels unable to plan her future because it is so uncer-

mortgage, buys few consumer goods or luxuries, and has only had one holiday in many

years — three days at a nearby

seaside resort. She does not

invest because the feels there

"It's not money that's the problem, as I earn as much as

permanent nurses. It's the

fear that next year I may be

earning nothing."
As Chris Pond of the Low

Pay Unit put it "Efficiency

and competitiveness are not

fust about saving costs. They

are also about people feeling relaxed and confident enough

to be imaginative. How can

you be when you are standing on a cliff edge?"

has finally pulled back from the cliff and can now look be-

yond the sheer drop at his feet to the horizon beyond. For

most of last year he worked on

a short-term contract for PPG

After 10 years, Gary Taylor

is nothing to invest in.

tain. She hasn't taken out a

ous economic downside.

Snotty toffs in tabloidese shocker

Why can't posh writers hack it like a real hack? SIMON HOGGART defends the wordcraft of the much-maligned tabloid journalist

VERYBODY seems to think they can write like the tabloid newspapers, but almost nobody can. This creates toecurling embarrassment for readers when even competent novelists try their hand at writing the Sun. You'll have seen the kind of thing, often produced by thriller writers who pride themselves on their gritty depiction of Britain as it really is: Look at this, Pomfret,

said Inspector Figgis, handing his assirtant a copy of the Daily Globe. The lurid headline read: Dreadful Discovery at Edgecombe Grange. The article began: There was a dreadful discovery upstandor at Edgecombe. ery yesterday at Edgecombe Grange, the home of Sir Ephraim Malfeasor, the prominent financier. Pettigrew, Sir Ephraim's longserving butler, had entered the conservatory late on Tuesday night carrying his

master's habitual nightcap of brandy and sods, when he was shocked to discover he had stumbled upon the bloodstained body of the noted merchant banker.

"Ambulance crews were summoned from the West Loamshire Hospital, but Str Ephraim was found to be dead, in what are believed to be suspicions circumstances. Officers from Scotland Yard have been alerted . . ."
I made that up, but you'll

have read similar disasters. I was reminded of them again by the publication this week of Edwina Currie's new novel, A Woman's Place. One of her characters is a sleazy tabloid journalist who is thought by his employers to be a brilliant

writer. Yet Mrs Currie's account of his account of the Prime Minister's resignation begins thus: "Today at the Con-

servative Party Conference the Prime Minister dropped the biggest bombshell of his career. As delegates pre-pared to deliver the tradi-tional standing ovation — expected to last six or seven minutes as usual — a dramatic change came over the man who has led the nation for the last six years. "In a shock departure from his standard text, in

which he was to call for national renewal and a revival of Tory values . . Mr Retts does not mention that the Prime Minister has resigned until his fourth paragraph, 138 words into his article, a piece which would get him sacked from the humblest parish maga-

Here he is again, putting the dampers on a story about a gay MP: "I saw it happen! TORY YOBBO IN GAY PUNCHUP SCANDAL Drumatic resignation after arr-rest. The latest scandal to rock the Tory Party exploded in the gloom of Hampstead Heath at seven o'clock last night. As dark-ness descended, junior Health Minister Tony York

was arrested by police and

charged with causing an

affray. He spent the night in cells and will appear in ourt this morning . . . I don't want to be too rude about Mrs Currie's work, since I could not do it myself

— but this ersatz journalism makes one's teeth fur over. Here I must break a small confidence. I happened to be present in Alice Springs, Australia, at the first meeting between the Prince of Wales and Andrew Morton who later wrote Princess Di

This was at a cocktail party to mark the start of Charles and Diana's first tour abroad. Technically these events are off the record, but it was 14 years ago and we can always pretend I was actually eavesdropping on a mobile phone.

RINCE Charles asked, in his diffident way, which papers we wrote for. Andrew Morton told him he was on the Daily Star. The Prince inquired why he had gone into journalism, and Mr Morton said that ever since he'd been a boy, he had yearned to write.
"In that case," said

Charles (I have a memory of

him wrinkling his nose in disdain, but that may be unfair), "why on earth did you join the Dally Star?" For some reason I found

this response intensely annoying and, inspired by sud-den courage, launched into a defence of tabloid journalists and how much more difficult their job is than ours. And it is. Any fool can write about a difference of emphasis between the For-eign Secretary and the Chan cellor if they have a thousand words to do it in; the trick is far, far harder if you have only 150. Whatever you think about our tabloid press, its writers are amons the finest craftsman in the world, their skills honed by an intense competition found almost nowbere else

oke, "it may be shit, but it's awfully well cooked." My suggestion is that a abloid reporter who wants to make a bit on the side should set up an agency pro-viding newspaper copy for novelists. They all get it wrong. It brings the reader up short, if grates, and for a tiny fraction of Mrs Currie's rovalties it would be money

In the punch-line of the old

|I was that original head-scratching Fast-Track Kid

GARY YOUNGE has a tip for Mr Blair

old I used to scratch my bead until it bled. My nursery school teacher caught me in the act, with a fist full of scalp, and referred me to a child psychologist who diag-nosed boredom and recommended that I be sent to infant school at the first opportunity. And so I skipped a year of playing with stickle bricks and entatively pulled out on to what Tony Blair has now christened the "fast track" of a future Labour government's educational superhighway. As a robust and precoclous toddler, with a mother for a teacher and two elder brothers

to slap me into a socially-acceptable shape, it was quite an uneventful journey. Unlike the editor of the Daily Telegraph, Charles Moore, who wrote this week about his experiences of being fast-tracked at Eton, I was not daunted by the prospect of "composing Latin verses and Greek prose". At the end of his

first term Mr Moore came

| 200th out of 240 and was shunted back - the first time this had ever happened at Eton - to rejoin his contemporaries: "I think I may have shed a few boyish tears," he recalled, I went to the local, state com-

prehensive. It didn't offer Greek or Latin or rank its pupils in their hundreds as if they were battery chicks. Apart from a bit of bullying, some racial abuse and few bouts of ovesickness, I had little cause to shed boyish tears. The only clue that I was a year younger than my peers was that my report cards used to say I was immature, although this turned out to be a permanent character trait rather than

anything to do with my age. So far so good. But it could have all gone horribly wrong. Had I had a lisp, not been keen on sports or gone to a particu-larly rough school I could have been classed as a nerd and suffered some serious harrassment. As it was I got off lightly, leaving at 17 with enough qualifications to get me to university and the nickname "grade A boll". Fast-tracking is one option that might suit certain children, in certain schools, from certain backgrounds as it did me. But it does not add up to a national policy. Nor is it my head-scratching was found

Worse still I could have actually become a nerd. I still recall watching the famously obnoxious Ruth Lawrence on John Craven's Newsround, the walls of her bedroom cov ered with geometric equations and her proud father interven ing every time an interviewer asked her if she wouldn't rather have some friends than lots of top grade A levels at the age of 10. She is now 24, and researching "knot theory" - a method of examining geometric constructions — at a scienific institute near Paris, She still lives with her father who still answers her questions for her. All of which goes to show that however fast the track there are no short cuts for producing well-rounded human

There is, however, a very easy way to stunt their growth: put them in the slow lane. ategorising children as remedial is bad enough. But force a child of 15 to sit in a class of 13 year-olds and watch them in a ifelong, uphill struggle for self-esteem because they have had "I am thick" tattooed on their foreheads.

William Hally, III The second

AND THE STREET

a Amipie

A prayer for the refugee

EW people are even aware that an increas ing number of asylum seekers in this country will have no money to live on. and no right to work. No wonder, in view of the poor coverage given by the Guardian and other media to the savage new regulations Peter Lilley has proposed. Asylum seekers are the forgotten minority among the FTP, the forgotten 30 per cent of our nation.

Anyone claiming to be an asylum seeker, and who has received a first decision against their claim, cannot receive any benefit support while they make an appeal. Currently, a high proportion of such people are still awaiting a decision, and may well need to appeal if refused. They will not receive any benefit while waiting for an answer, and will not be allowed to work during the first six months in this country. The fact is that a higher proportion of cases are adjudged to be genuine on appeal than they are on the first hearing. Starving people cannot wait long enough for their case to be heard.

The Home Secretary is try-ing to ensure that all such decisions are made at the port of entry. A refugee arriving here from a situation of persecution is immediately in strange surroundings, un-known procedures including 75-question form to be filled in, possibly no knowledge of English, an unknown not nec essarily friendly interpreter, a fear of authorities, and no legal representation. It is not

surprising that many come in therefore, and make their claim to be asylum seekers after a few weeks. Such people may well be genuine. To remove all means of support from them as they seek to get a full and fair hearing of their case is a deep betrayal of how any country ought to deal with people who are possibly genu-ine refugees.

We can only assume that no

political party is willing to sustain a just system of dealing with refugees, because of the unpopularity of their cause at the polls.

If our vote catchers can af-

ford to ignore the FTP, what hope for refugees within that thirty per cent. There have to be ways in which asylum seekers have their claims properly examined in a world full of refugees. We as Christians believe that this way does not even begin to measure against the standard of justice and mercy which a nation is required to uphold. What we do with refugees today, we will do to others who have no political redress tomorrow, Rt Rev Peter Hall.

Bishop of Woolwich. Rt Rey Wilfred Wood. Bishop of Croydon, Rt Rev Roger Sainsbury. Bishop of Barking, Ven Clive Young Archdeacon of Hackney, Ven Douglas Bartles-Smith Archdeacon of Southwark Ven Peter Broadbent. Archdeacon of Northolt Diocese of Southwark, 8B Hillyfields Crescent, London SE4 1QA.



IF THEY CHRRIED ON

LIKE THAT IN HERE

I'D HAVE EMOUTON

MESSING ...

EIR ARSES - NO

HOW BETT?

BOOTFIRDYD









The dishonourable consul

HE attempt by the British Embassy in Athens to pressurise Cambridge University Press to stop publica-tion of Anastasia Karakasidou's work will come as little surprise to writers on the southern Balkans (Academic uproar at banned book, Febru-

My own book, The Greeks - Land And People Since The War, was translated into Greek recently and published in Athens by a commercial firm, which had a normal commercial contract with Penguin Books here. I was aston-ished to be told by an acquaintance in the diplomatic service that I had been attacked at an internal Foreign Office meeting as a "troublemaker" by the then ambassador in Athens, Sir Oliver Miles, and that the book could "raise hell". This bilious attack turned out to rest on the short chapter on the Macedonian issue, although my views are a good deal closer to those of the Greek government than those of Ms Karakasidou, and most of the chapter is devoted to a very elementary analysis of what the problem seems to

me to be about.

The point is nothing really to do with the value of the work of any particular writer. There is a hidden — or, in-

creasingly, not so hidden — agenda in MI6 and the FCO to

prevent discussion of the issue, and any means, including really low political chica-nery of this sort will do. The distinguished historian of Bosnia, Dr Noel Malcolm, has been subjected to the same treatment. My other intellectual "crime" — I think — has been to suggest that the ortho-doxies that have dominated British policy towards Greece since the civil war are in urgent need of overhaul. The attitudes of Miles and his numerous lik in the FCO rest on a crude response to these

noia of these dreadful

James Pettifer.

St Antony's College. Oxford OX26JF.

by post to 118 Ferringdon Road

London EC1R 3ER, and by e-

mail to letters@guardian.co.uk.

chosen circumstances in uggestions, however formu lated, as the problem of the Slav-speaking people in Greece is essentially tied up with the second world war. like so much else in the modern Balkans. There are still esidual guilty consciences in comprehensive principle, not Whitehall about our role in to bury it. But that means a radical the defeat of the left, and this

is what is underneath the apparently irrational parasaid, Roy Hattersley please note) a commitment to a decade of sustained investment around clear objectives. This iser's Orthodoxy Tony Wright MP. House of Commons etters to the Editor may be taxed on 0171 837 4530 or sent

> THE strapline you chose for my article was: "If John Major's electoral plans for Ulster were applied to mainland Britain, they could result in the break-up of the United Кіледот.

My view is precisely the opposite. I broadly sympathise ith the Prime Minister's Northern Ireland policy. What cannot understand is why it is that devolution and proportional representation are conceived of as beneficial to Northern Ireland, but impossible for the rest of the United Kingdom.

Vernon Bogdanor. Brasenose College, Oxford OX1 4AJ.

was, indeed, brilliant (Feb ruary 1). But you know that. I lived in Shropshire during the eighties, decade of dynamism. In perceived comparison with the rest of the world, fashionable Shropshire dinner-table came to the view that boredom in the country was no longer just prevalent, but had

lectly to save us. We realised in the end how interesting it boredom — and how gratifyis a world-class boring

county.

And now, 10 years after we thought the final stimulating thesis on boredom had been handed in, the Guardian breaks new ground.

WAS struck by the following paragraph (Labour wins Hemsworth poll. February 2): "Labour described the performance of the Socialist Labour Party as derisory and proof that Mr Scargill is a pinprick." Are you quite sure that you got that last bit exactly right? Dave Jennings.

New heads of argument.

PRINCE,

WHEN I saw the inaccurate headline you had given my article (Good grammar, February 1), I was afraid it might mislead the unwary. And so it proved. It rather makes my point about how we prefer old social arguments to new educational ones.

Let me, briefly, try again. On the local agonies of school choice, parents will simply do their muddled best in the unwhich they find themselves. I doubt there is much more to be said on that front. The real issue now is to fulfil the original comprehensive promise of excellence for all, especially in those places where performance mocks the promise. It is the moment to reinvent the

educational agenda, not an old social one. It also means (as I should be the Radical Modern

London SWIA OAA

/OUR editorial on duliness

become terminal. However, the mechanism you describe worked pering to realise that Shropshire

Was ever anything more boring than a Guardian leader on dullness? John Anthony. Picket Piece Andover SP11 6LY.

29 Hertslet Road, London N76PH.

Salvoes fired at the Western canon

sault on cultural studsaut on contraction les (Trivial pursuit, February 1) is the latest illnformed attack on the teaching of cultural, communication and media studies in British universities. It would be nice if just one of these recurrent allegations of a decline in literary, cultural and echolarly standards managed to document the argument.

rather than exemplify it. For instance, Porter repeat edly and approvingly cites the current work of Professor Richard Hoggart. The very first—and deservedly most influential—Centre for Con-temporary Cultural Studies was established in 1964, at the University of Birmingham, b the very same Professor Richard Hoggart. Reader in Cultural

ENRY PORTER'S as-

and Communication Studies. Liverpool John Moores University. Liverpool L1 7BR ENRY PORTER has addressed a serious defect

in a society which celebrates ignorance — even by people in positions of influence. Observe the nonsensical buzz phrases such as the ubiqui-

tous "mission" and "vision" statements issued by organi-sations to cover their lack of nous. It has recently been my misfortune to work for a privatised utility where a man-ager questioned me as to what the phrase "inter alia" might

I am not claiming that everyone should be able to translate the entire works of Virgil but this ignorance is, I fear, symptomatic of a general deficiency. Tom Vodden-Smith. 21 Southminster Road, Roath, Cardiff CF25AT.

ENRY PORTER unfa-vourably compared the supposedly laissez faire populism of modern British cultur to "countries where people still read books (the former Soviet Union)". I can't speak for other former Soviet repub lics but, in Russia itself, there are as many avid consumers of tabloid newspapers, soap operas, sex manuals and torrid fiction, and as many practitioners of graffiti, as in the West. Complaints by serious writers, especially poets, about the indifference of Russian readers to their work

have become routine. And

even in Soviet days, most Rus-

sians' experience of high cul-ture was limited to a few assiduously propagated classics (Swan Lake, Pushkin's most anthologised poems, Tolstoy's War and Peace).

Today, while some in Russia rival George Steiner in polymathic sweep of knowl-edge, the vast majority are nelther better nor worse read than their counterparts here. The Soviet Union was no more haven of intellectualism than it was a workers'

paradise. (Dr) Catriona Kelly. Lecturer in Russian Language and Literature, School of Slavonic and East Ruropean Studies, University of London.

By "culture" does Porter mean "a shared knowledge system"? If so, it is both likely and desirable that this is changing. To bemosn the loss of the shared knowledge system held by those "cru-cially, whose education started before the last war seems more to do with Porter's fear of age and death than the disappearance of standards. Pater Stannack. Ashington. Northumberland NESI SAE

Rabbi of the United Syna-

gogue, a denominational grouping whose membership is around 35,000 households.

Add to this a few independent

congregations and you may

achieve a figure of 40,000 households, say 60,000 adulta

who accept the authority of the holder of this office. This is

less than a quarter of British

Harry Freedman.

Synagogues, 786 Finchley Rd.

Assembly of Masorti

London NW117TH.

Will we sympathise with some of Stanley

Kalma's criticism of the Chief

Rabbi, businessmen like him who dominate debate and in-

stitutions in the Jewish con

munity are just as much of a problem as the anti-demo-cratic, unelected, religious

Contrary to what Stanley

Kalms argues, Dr Sacks was

women's or any other issues.

Few Jews had any illusions that he would affect their lives

in any way at all, nor do they care whether he resigns or

There is a great deal of life

and creativity in the Jewish community, which makes an

important contribution to

British society as a whole.

vay the community is "led'

pluralism, equality and toler ance within their own com-

munities as much as within

the wider society, and to chal-

lenge self-appointed leaders

who claim to speak or not in

their name

Julia Bard.

David Rosenberg.

62 Hadley Street,

London NW1 8TA.

The Jewish community is

never progressive on

Jewry.

ENRY PORTER complains of the sloppy, prejudiced thinking of the modern age. He then makes a sloppy, prejudiced claim that I consider graffitti and Rembrandt to be of equal value. This would be as silly a claiming that Henry Porter

and an accurate journalist were of equal value. Terry Eagleton. Warton Professor of English Literature, St Catherine's College, Oxford OX1 SUJ.

DID the great majority of us ever know the central biblical and classical quotes? and are our inner spaces any less clumered with trivia than the great medieval thinkers who devoted so much time to the number of angels dancing

on a pinhead? Did relativism go to bed with mass marketeers, or was it a necessary intellectual development coinciding with and responding to mass popular mediums? And who set the agenda for these mass mediums but the business elites trained at the great institu-tions of learning, taught by in-tellectuals? As for "novels high on the shelf unread", how do you know?

Western culture, along with its political begemony, is on the wane. Mediterranean culture is learning to live with eastern cultures and western information technology. Our inieliectual culture can still learn a thing or two and could certainly make itself more accessible. Michael O'Donoghue. M Landseer Road. London EN1 1DR.

COULDN'T belp contrast-ing Henry Porter's article on "dumbing down" with the lat-est wheese from Tony Blair about "fast-tracking.

Although this one will probably have been overtaken by a new gimmick by the time I get this letter ismmed into the fax machine, it's still puzzling that middle class parents are alleged to be so keen to force their children's pace of growth when the culture these selected kids are destined for (including that of their fond parents) is furiously dumbing down. Where is the fast track going to? And what's in the luggage-rack? Nicholas Murray. The Rack,

Presteigne

Powys LD8 2PF.

the German and French

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CUT TRAFFIC NOT TREES.

GREENPEACE

its not rite

EXBD penalty notices ahould be attached to Sainsbury's shelves (Letters, brand paste tell us "... paste is often added to the sauce in it's pan". We learn of "mens' something or other. We see shelves stocked with CD's and the company does not know if gredient or everyones or every-ones. With such poor attention to detail, there is no wonder that profit is falling. Norman T Shepherd. 4 Loggetts. 65/67 Alleyn Park, London SE21 8AS.

ICHAEL Harvey's task force of Language War-dens should include an Unnec essary Prepositions Unit. They could save newsprint through the systematic removal of extra preposition which serve no useful purpos eg outside of: up until: me Walter Cairns.

Broomhurst Hall. 836 Wilmslow Road, Manchester M20 8RP.

Off the active list

OUR article (Labour drops all-women shortlists to safeguard chosen candidates February 1) is misleading. As the person directly involve in presenting the legal challenge to the all-women shortlists, I cannot possibly see how any appeal hearing could af-fect the lawfulness of the 34 selections which have not been legally challenged.

indeed, any appeal court could only consider issues in relation to the three seats challenged at the Legds Tribunal If the NEC-of the Labour Party have been given such advice they should seek a fur-

ther opinion. Peter Jepson 7 Moss Gardens. Middlesex TW134JF.

A tour of the religious quarter

ES, mass attendance has been falling off for a number of years and is now in a state of free fall (Catholic Church losing mass appeal. lanuary 30). The reasons are to be found within the Church herself for the past 30 years. Hierarchy and clergy have failed to speak with clarity, conviction and unanimity; abuses (especially where lit-urgy is concerned) are tolerated while initiatives that have proven to be damaging

High profile dissidents propound views that are diametrically opposed to the tradiaching of the Church and are not silenced, leaving many Catholics ignorant and M C Flynn Field End Road Eastcote, Pinner, Middlesex HA5 20J.

HE declining figures are a direct result of what has malaise" in school religions education programmes. Reflecting Thatchertte eco-nomics, the Religious Educa tion teethooks and

"resources" used in RC schools have, it would appear been produced with an eye on profits from sales to non-RC As a direct cor

much that is integral to the teaching of the Catholic faith has been omitted. Not one that I have examined even mentions the obligation to attend Mass on Sundays and holy

Research Centre 47 Heathhurst Rd, Sanderstead, Surrey CR2 0BB.

However this is in spite of, rather than because of, the often cited as a role model for other: more recent, immigrant communities. If there's one lesson we can pass on, it's that minorities should fight K P Platt. Christian Unity hard to promote democracy.

JOU incorrectly state that T Rabbi Jonathan Sacks is the "leader of Britain's 200,000 Orthodox Jews" (Chief Rabbi fights call to resign, January 27). Rabbi Sacks is the Chief

Lord of all he betrays

ONCE again Lord Malchett demands the right to reply to any criticism of his flefdom, Greenpeace UK (Letters, Pebruary 2). It was not the Guardian suggesting that Green-peace has gone soft, but myself, former action co-ordinator for Greenpeace UK and Greenpeace International.

For the record:

Nearly all the people involved in the planning of the Brent Spar and Mururos sacked or made redundant: Lord Melchett has downgraded his own direct action department from five fulltime positions to just two: ● The Greenpeace action in Tiananmen Square was car-ried out to deflect criticism in

media about Greenpeace only being interested in French nuclear testing, and the new office that Greenpeace has opened in Hong Kong has vetoed any further actions in China on nuclear testing. Finally, Lord Melchett is also the chair of the board of Greenpeace Japan. The Japanese have continued whaling in the Southern Ocean Sanctuary and Greenpeace Japan continues to oppose any confrontational actions against Japanese interests both in Japan and elsewhere. Indeed, his actions do speak louder than words. Paul McGhee.

Jakedent Print to William

without spirit, like a wreck

61a Beresford Rd. London N5.

A Country Diary NORTH DERBYSEIRE: The

narrow lane, an ancient way ed in prehistory, curls up the flank of the moor, an open track boldly fronting the slope so that it must have always been unpopular with packmen and carters. On a midwinter night, I wandered up it under an ink-black sky in which the bright moon bung, unmolested by any cloud. My lane was a silver ribbon leading to the heavens no breeze stirred the last skeletons of hogweed on the verge Over to my left, beyond a silent paddock, I could make out the back of the hillside farm against the stars. No sparks flew from its low chimney stack, no glimmer of lamplight through mullioned windows for the last occupant had died a couple of weeks earlier. He was the last of a line of hill folk who had farmed here for generations and this last generation were unmarried. No point in going through the gate again: there'd be no response to knocking at the green, house-place door. It's a building now

cast up on an empty shore, so I kept on towards the shining hilltop and saw shooting stars. Standing on that silvery mount, a far-off sound brought to mind John Clare's waking fox "renew his short gruff bark" and, as I went along, it was confirmed. The strident call was closer now, issuing from a black spinney at the foot of the next field. Then came a squeal; certainly not a fox-call; more likely the "dread evening shricks" of Clare's badger echoes. Though I waited in the moonlight some time, neither fox nor badger uttered their calls again and, on going down by the black spinney, there oc-curred the thought that Clare wouldn't really have been at home up here on the slanting hillsides. He was a poet of the fertile lowlands and probably never saw such heights as these. Even so, the genius of his universal language fits this landscape just as well as that of the south-east

Midlands. ROGER REDFERN day February alex

anon

!trays

Lord Wakeham, the press watchdog, is the ultimate fixer with a finger in every important pie. **Photograph by GRAHAM TURNER**

Oiling along rather nicely, thanks



INTERVIEW

OHN WAKEHAM does not look like a figure to make a journalist nervous. Rumple-faced, rumple-suited, his ers held up with braces, he looks, at the age of 68, like many other Tory grandees in the House of Lords. He is a veteran of the Conservative Party, serving it for 18 years until 1992 and earning the nickname of Mr Fixit because of his skill at behind-the-scene obs. He was Chief Whip,

Leader of both the Commons and the Lords, and Lord Presiient of the Council (as well as Energy Secretary). What a wit once said about another politician could be applied to Wake ham: he is a man who has risen without trace"

It was the Brighton bomb in 1984, which, tragically, made him well-known. It killed his under rubble for seven hours. severely damaging his legs, which still cause him pain. He has remarried, to Alison, Mrs. Thatcher's former secretary, and lives in Hampshire. He has three children, the youngest is

To journalists, Wakeham is something more. As chairman of the Press Complaints Commission he is the headmaster no one wants to be called in to see. He and his commission can humiliate journalists publicly by upholding complaints

against them. This week marked the end of his first year in the job, calebrated with a party which, being full of hacks, he admits went on a bit". He also issued tournalists with an end-of-year report: "You are cleaning up your act. Keep at it and remen per we have teeth that bite."

It was a nicer phrase than the one used by his predeces sor, Lord McGregor (who accused journalists of "dah-bling their fingers in the stuff of other people's souls"), but Wakeham's remark was not a hail-fellow-well-met clap on the

back either. Everyone likes Wakeham. Though a master at party poli-Though a master at party point ticking, he is said to be straight-up in dealings with people. When he arrived back in the Commons, four months after the Brighton bomb, he was cheered on both sides. You wonder how the groerience afwas cheered on both sides. You their private life into the pubwonder how the experience af-

facted his personality. "I don't talk much about it," he says. "It does affect me in that I am particularly grateful that I have been able to rebuild my ter a bit. I am not so argumen tative as I was. It has helped me

sense of humour. The joke po-tential of our encounter. between a member of the press and the press watchdog is not lost on him. He decides not to

talk in his own office, where he would disturb his room-mates. Instead, we sit down in the

He has more fun later on, when asked whether the past rear has given him more or

tabloids are in a highly competitive business, fighting or the very margins of what is possible and what is not possible to say, and very well aware that if they don't run a story, their competition will. And they also know that papers like yours and the Tele

This is technically a foul, except that Wakeham is the referee. The consensus, after his first year in the job, is that he has been a good one. He is generally thought to have shown common sense in warn-ing papers in advance to leave He is credited with heading off the Government's threat of statutory curbs on press free-dom. Even the suspicion that he would betray a Tory bias has melted away. Wakeham says, unabashedly, that this is

next week but if you lay off, you can have it the following week and what is more, I'll go the Prime Minister to take part in it,' I have to deliver.' But there a few clouds hans ing around the offices of the

Press Complaints Commis-sion. There is the row over Prince Philip for a start. Last year, Wakeham made the headlines after warning, on the eve of the Princess of Wales's Panorma interview, that those "who voluntarily bring

bacome a better fixer." He is well-known for his

baroness omewhere warmer.

"Ah," Wakeham says, "but
when it's too cold, they don't
stay too long, you see."

"and strangely enough, more respect for the tabloids. The truth of the matter is that the

themselves just once, and then away you go.

says, manashedry, that thus is because he always acts with integrity. "The thing about the world I have operated in is that people trust you because they've trusted you before. If I say to someone as Chief Whip, Look you can't have a debate host work but if you lay off

huge Lords' Royal Gallery. Baroness Smith suggests we

less respect for the press. "Probably more," he says.

reams and reams of copy, waiting for the tabloids to commit

asequences of their He says he was not, as critics claimed, arguing for a return to the days when the House of Windsor put up a blank wall against the press. "Maybe it is right to discuss some of these things but you can't then expect newspapers not to join in the discussion. It is up to that individual to set the Would he say the same to

Prince Charles, after his inter-view with Dimbleby? "Yeah sure," he shruge. "It's the same for everyhody." for everybody..."
Including for Julia Carling whose complaints against the Sun were rejected this week by the PCC, on the grounds that

she "had clearly placed details of her past and current relationships into the public relationships into the public domain by virtue of articles and interviews designed, in part to enhance her image [and] promote her career". It does not, he insists, set any precedent. The PCC, he points out, ruled against the News of the Weed legit was related. the World last year when it used the same argument to de-fend pictures of Earl Spencer's wife, saying he had surrendered his privacy by inviting Hello! magazine into his home. "That was rubbish in my view," says Wakeham. "He had presented a part of his life — his house and grounds —

partly to raise money to keep

the show going, in a perfectly reasonable, civilised fashion. That doesn't therefore entitle the press to take pictures of Lady Spencer in hospital with a telephoto lenses. Whereas," he adds, "it was quite clear to us that in the case of Julia Caring, she had courted

publicity." But isn't there a huge differance between volunteering publicity and having it thrust

on you? Sure . . . and the Commisslon has to weigh these things up. But in practice it is not that difficult to decipher the action you should take from the sort of publicity someone is after.
This suggests that the Commission sympathised with Earl Spencer for selling his story to raise funds for his house but did not sympathise

with Julia Carling for promoting her own career. Is Wakeham saying that the motive of someone who chooses public-ity is material to a PCC "In so far as the motive is apparent, probably it is material. All I am saying is that a person who seeks publicity runs the risk — no more than

that — that it will be harder to defend their privacy. It doesn't mean it gives carte blanche to newspapers."

If the decisions made under his reign seem controversial, he adds, it is for good reason.

What is quite clearly happening is that newspapers are set-tling a higher percentage of complaints before they come to the PCC because they recognise that we mean business But that does mean that the ones we get to adjudicate on

manship, the Com-mission of 17 members (eight of whom are from the press)
manages to reach a consensus ten times a year, on a dozen or so cases a time. "It is a skillful

operation," he says, again without false modesty. "I ask people what are the argument against you? Maybe the differences are very narrow. Some people feel that even to articu-late the other person's point of view is to half concede but I believe in rational discussion and good humour." But his reputation as Mr Fixit, he adds, can be a millstone. "The more people call you a fixer, the more difficult it is to be the

people highly suspicious."
What hasn't he been able to fix? "Oh well, lots of things. I was campaign manager for Mrs Thatcher for six hours. Six hours after I became her campaign manager, she gave up. So that wasn't very successful." Wakeham entered politics fairly late at the age of 42. His

fixer next time. It makes

neer later set up his own gar-age business. Wakeham at first thought of becoming a writer — "my father said it was the best job you could do but then he told me, 'you haven't got any talent' . . . to write, I mean." Instead, he chose accountancy, working for Arthur Young, where he audited books for oil compa-nies. At 28, he set up his own business, specialising in construction machinery. By the time he entered the Commons in 1974, he was very wealthy.
He also had a huge number of
directorships—"I had 62 before I went into Parliament".
He pruned them down to four, but since retiring from poli-tics, he has been building them

up again.
"I can only manage a couple
of dozen now," he jokes. (It's
actually "eight or nine"). Still,
quite a lot of extra jobs for the PCC chairman. "I am a busi-nessman," he shrugs. "I am in-terested in solving problems." His latest post, which he takes up in June, is the chairman-ship of the British Horseracing Board (annual salary £20,000), which has taken over from the Jockey Club in run-ning the sport. Wakeham has talked enthusiastically about reforming the sport away from its elitist past and about how the next chairman might be

father was a trained civil engi- | ers and breeders. At which you can't help pointing out that in the meantime, the sport is dominated by Tory grandees. Wakeham actually shares a coat-peg with Lord Wyatt, chairman of the Tote

"I am not a Tory grandee." he protests. "I am one of the few people in politics who started with £300. Not that I feel inferior to the Tory grandees . . . "It is true, he conceder that the chairmanship of the Tote is in the gift of the Home

The division bell now

clangs, ending any chance of finding out how Wakeham plans to democratise the rac ing world. For the press, though, the pressure appears to be off and in the course of nearly an hour, no red cards have been flourished. But when I play back the tape, I note the words he slipped in after summarising his first year in the job. "The object was to persuade everyone that self-regulation could work," he said, "and since last June, the Government has said that it is



Sunday in the park with the down and outs

Lottery money may give urban parks a makeover, says PATRICK WRIGHT

UST as our urban parks are looking their bleak, mid-winter worst, along comes the possibility of £50 million of Lottery money to rejuvinate them, thanks to the National Heritage Memorial

Foundation. Yet although many parks still command great loyalty, most are in a very sad state, some abandoned almost entirely to dogs, others used as dumping grounds by the police keen to keep the disorderly and insane off the streets. Vandalism is rife.. The typical innercity park story is less about constructive recreation than unguarded chaos, with sy-ringes in the sandpit and mug-gers lurking behind the trees.

It is too easy to turn the rundown park into a symbol of wider dereliction in our sense of the public good, and yet there can be little doubt that some thing has gone badly wrong. As leader of the late GLC, Ken Livingstone once pointed out that herbaceous borders, being labour intensive, were early vicions of the cuts.

Yet if money is part of the story, urban green spaces are also suffering from our lack of any proper conception as to what they might actually be. Victorian parks once exemplified what could be done to ease the tensions of city life, but in recent decades we have failed to come up with a comparable vision. The innovations we have seen have been piecemeal and as it turns out, imported from elsewhere - the garden

festival, the adventure play-ground, the inner-city farm. We have done very little to adjust our public parks to the changed circumstance of the modern city, or to the fact that the urban population is now both more specialised in its recreational interests, and more diverse than the Victorian pub-

lic ever was. The present possibilities of the park often seem lost in a cloud of conflicting pieties. Every interested lobby has its own set. The advocates of open spaces are inclined to insist that all ones crace in the situ is that all open space in the city is good, even though there is plead proportion of maintenance



tiful evidence that some urban open spaces are bleak, miser-able, underused places, and actually no good to anyone. The playing fields lobby pur-sues its own bent, reluctant to accept that playing fields may already be in good supply, or that they may absorb a larger

budget than can easily be justi-fied by their use. There is an equally single-minded green argument that urban parks should be allowed to revert to wilderness, as if these were "natural" places in which

people have only a marginal right. History can get in the way

too. We owe a lot to the Vic-Bench life . . . city torian campaigners who fought hard to save so many of our urban open spaces from devel-opment, but they also lum-BE# 120W largely bered us with a problem. Their parks were organised around such an exclusive idea of appropriate usage that some 19th century park planners are said to have been surprised to hear that working class people even

wanted to vistriheen Access of that kind may no longer be the major proble but the polite visual aesthetics that continue to govern so much thinking about parks may still work against legitimate public interests in the present, discounting any thought of new buildings and distrusting any activity beside quiet contemplation.
If we are to find a better

future for the urban park, then we need to get beyond the vague assumption that all parks are inherently good things. Some open spaces are windswept wastes, no use to anyone. Others would be improved by being devoted to new and specialist uses — including those loud American sports that involve tarmac and seem particularly offensive to the historically-minded.

The National Heritage Me morial Foundation has broad ened its outlook considerably since its first statements on lot tery funding, which gave the impression that grants would be confined to the restoration of historic features like bandstands and railings. The advisory panel, set up to assist in the grant-making, seems to lean heavily towards the historical perspective of the Gar-den History Society (a criminologist and an avant-garde sculptor should be added immediately), but the guide-lines for the Urban Parks Programme try to reach out. They admit new structures — as long as they are "appropriate" and see that play areas and leisure facilities have a legitimate

place even in historical parks. More useful now would be a series of initiatives with different kinds of urban park: pilot projects perhaps, which dem-onstrate what could be done to ent public and its interests. Some historical parks should certainly be preserved, but there will be other places where renewal can hardly be achieved even under this moderately expanded definition of

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Radio

Lyn Gardner

trivia Lundy, Fastnet. Malin. Hebrides . . shipping forecast, crucial to mariners, is merely part of the sound wallpaper for most Radio 4 listeners. We haven't the foggiest what it really means, but the words are etched like a spell into our subconscious to be dredged up with multiplication tables and

nursery rhymes. Listen to any national radio station all day and you are bombarded with information. You may live in Worksop but you will know about road works on the Basingstoke ring road and the burst water-pipe causing chaos in Wimbled you will know that Lisa in Ac-ton loves Kevin in Northamp ton, and that Saily Feld-

man edits Woman's Hour. Sometimes it's hard to tell the difference between the progranimes and the fluffy bits in between. Retro is trivia's best friend and radio is hot on retro at the moment. Take Beam Me Up Scotty (Radio 4), John Peel's nostalgic zoom through space-age pop culture from **Buck Rogers to Space Precinct** and Joe Meek to Bowie. This was bursting with information of the kind that could only be of possible use to those planning to enter a baby boomers' Trivial Pursuit challenge. It relied on the fact that the listener was going to be so busy saying, "Oh yes, I remember lava lamps space hoppers silver mini-skirts watching Dr Who from behind the set tee." that nobody would notice we were being fobbed off with what amounted to little more than a 28-minute list.

part of a future that was going to happen, that this was how we were going to live," sald one contributor.

Wednesday's edition of Cultural Baggage (Radio 3) was on dogs, and nostalgia levels were kept high with K9. Blue Peter's Petra and Barbara Woodhouse. Hiked the interviewee who argued that in the East End, your dog is as Impor tant as your mum and that the defining moment for the Krav twins was seeing Lassie Come Home. It gave them a entimental seizure from

which they never recovered The frustrating thing about this rather neat little series is that all the snatches of music and class from books, tilms, TV programmes and interviews are unidentified (you can send for a fact sheet) so you spend as much time playing cultural masternund and trying to remember the name of that

song as actually listening. More concrete subjects such as the doys strand seemed to work better than the philo sophical. Thursday's programme on viruses was hampenal by the butterfly format and lack of overall analysis. But if you want facts, at least Cultural Baggage offers ones to make you think: that the people than all the wars of the 20th century, that by the year 2000 40 million people will be intected by ITV.

if you feel your obsession with trivia is getting out of con-trol you could my a shot of **No** Job Too Small (Radio 4). This describes itself as a minutiae ma fatano programme. I have listened to it with rapt attention and I think infinitiae is overstepping the mark. It doesn't seem to be about any thing at all. This week, presenter Stuart Maconie said he didn't like parsley, a point of view, but hardly one worth airing. A little discussion about the prosund cons of parsies followed as well as a few facts

about the poor abused herb. Then somebody said that they didn't see the point of fal cum powder I can see that this will be a series that will run and run. At least until someone in the BBC is brave enough to say that they don't see the

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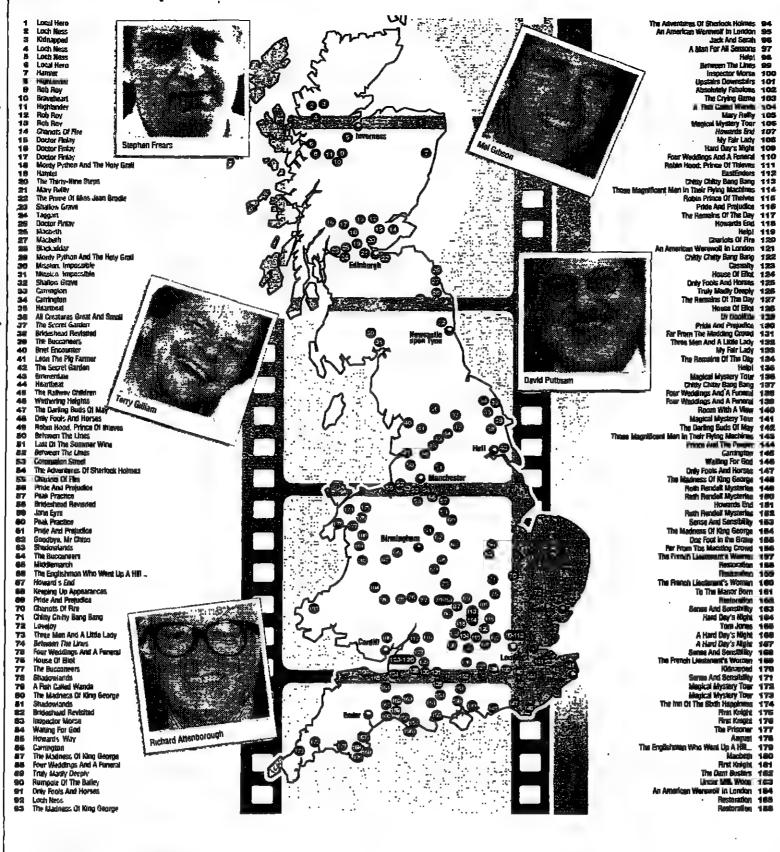
BRIGHTON







Being there . . . Emma Thompson in Carrington, Ted Danson in Loch Ness and Hugh Grant in The Englishman Who Went Up A Hill But Came Down A Mountain. Now the cinema is proving a British geography teacher, thank to the Movie Map. 250,000 of which have been produced



RONALD BERGAN looks at a movie map of the UK

This nation of locations

FYOU want to see the splendours of Syon House and gardens. fondly recalled from The Madness Of King George, or at the other ond of the spectrum, visit the Glasgow warehouse where Shallow Grave was filmed. help is at hand. For the first time, a Movie Map is available to help you follow in the footsteps of Nigel Hawthorne or Scotland's murderous trio and more than 180 other UK film or television locations.

A quarter of a million copies have been produced by the British Tourist Authority and Vauxhall to celebrate the twin centenaries of the cur-oma and the car industry in Britain. The aim. according the BTA, which is issuing mation centres. is "is to use the tremendous international success of these films (Four

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Weddings And A Funeral. Braveheart, etc) to stimulate travel in and around Britain. The map will help visitors fol low in the footsteps of their

screen heroes." So expect to see nostalgic Americans pointing at Regent's Park and Tottenham Court Road tube stations as seen in An American Werewolf in London, or hanging about in the empty clothing factory in Spitalfields in Lon-don used in The Crying

Small screen fanatics may also be seen lingering in Whitemead House in Duck-more Road. Bristol, which served as the exterior of Del Boy's flat in Nelson Mandela House in Only Fools And Horses, or the house in Bournemouth in which Victor Meldrew supposedly lives in One Foot In The Grave? Poring over the Movie Map proves that it is possible to cross the Forth Railway ridge as Kenneth More did in the remake of The Thirty Nine Steps; travel through Gwynedd in Wales, which stood in for China in The Inn Of The Sixth Happiness; and stroll through Covent Garden, though the market in My Fair Lady is no longer there. You could even discover whether the buffet at Camforth Station in Lancashire is still as dreary as when Trevor Howard said farewell to Celia

Johnson in Brief Encounter. Will tourists hope to find Darcy, his clothes in disarray, materialising in the gardens of Lyme Park in Cheshire where Pride And Prejudice was filmed, or a group of voung men in white vests and ong white shorts cantering along the beach at St Andrews as they did in Chariots Of Fire? Surely not. There

may be further distillusionment when tourists wander looking for the non-existent telephone box used in Local Hero or, on arrival at Howarth, they might find the countryside less turbulent and romantic than James Basevi's set designs (acres of heather were shipped to the California hills) in William Wyler's Wuthering Heights. "Although filmed on a Hollywood set, the wild, bleak Yorkshire moors of the Pennines surrounding Howarth, are vividly evoked in the

movie," the map's notes proclaim. It seems that today's pilgrims would rather visit Blackness Castle in Falkirk, where Mel Gibson played or Fishguard in Dyfed where Richard Burton and Elizabeth Taylor declaimed in

Under Milk Wood, instead of Laugharne or New Quay more likely models for Dylan Thomas's Llareggub. Fifteen couples have

apparently already proposed at the Crown Hotel, Amersham, and others have been clambering to get married (o) buried?) in the five churche featured in Four Weddines. Perhaps this is the only way most people an audience can go beyond the vicarious

experience of watching a film to the sensation of actually, in some way, participating in it. But while tourists may enjoy travelling around Great Britain in search of film loca tions, they will discover that, like the past, films inhabit another country, an inaccessi-ble fantasy world. These elegant illusions, which have been caught in the eye of the camera, can only be observe

strange mixture of selfishness and universal love.

Antony Sher also transcends his natural talent for imperson-

MICHAEL BILLINGTON reviews Stanley

Portrait of the artist

LAYS about artists always present problems. After all, the very thing for which they are famous painting, writing, composing is hard to dramatise. But Pam Gems's Stanley at the Cottesloe is a highly plausible, at times deeply moving portrait of Stanley Spencer: partly because of an inspired performance by Antony Sher and partly because Spencer's visionary genius is seen as inseparable from his sexual muddle.

What is fascinating is that Gems doesn't indulge in easy condemnation: she allows the facts of Spencer's often mon-strous behaviour to speak for themselves. We see the artist and his devoted wife, Hilda, enjoying their Cookham paradise saying their prayers before sex — until Spencer becomes romantically and socially infatuated with his snobbish neighbour, Patricia Preece, who lives with the painter Dorothy Hepworth. Spencer heartlessly junks Hilda, eventually marries Patricia and then tries to

Gems implies that sexual freedom is a condition of artistic activity. Spencer, in her view, is a kind of holy innocent whose vision of Christ returned to a Berkshire village is emotionally connected to his licence, she conveys Spencer's

find a way of living with the

sexual voracity. In the process she demonises Patricia Preece but captures Spencer's Blakeian quality and, in particular, his profound Englishness and attachment to nature. At the heart of the play there

is a deep romanticism. Artists are somehow exempt from moral sanctions, Augustus John pops in to embody the idea of the painter as life-loving bottom-pincher and, at the end there is an improbably idyllic vision of pastoral England, full of bicycling vicars and jovial colonels, But, although Gems never asks the awkward question as to why the artist should automatically be given moral

ation to capture, perhaps be-cause be is a painter himself, the spiritual essence of Spen-cer. When he talks of his childhood home or apostrophises his dead wife he catches not only the heart but also the pe-culiar child-like nature of Spec cer's genius; it is the most mov-ing thing he has done. Deborah Findlay beautifully conveys Hilda's saintly forbearance and there is exemplary support from both Anna Chancellor as the supine, fake-sophisticated Patricia and from Selina Cadell as her Sapphic chum. And, aside from a final kitsch burat of candlelight illuminating Tim Hatley's practical, pew-laden set, John Caird's produc-tion is precisely in tune with the play's devout Anglophilia.

At the Cottesioe (0171-928

Black and white issue

Television

Mark Lawson

HIS week, a group called the Anti-Racism Alliance launched a cinema advertisemen with the message "Racism Destroys Lives", trying to prick consciences over the popcorn. By coincidence, a similar exercise is being at-tempted in the possibly more hostile territory of mainstream ITV drama, where The Ruth Rendell Mysteries: Simisole (Meridian) revolves around the kind of forensic observation that can be made without qualifications, or rubber gloves: the colourofaktn

The English crime novel is a genre which once cheerfully accommodated a novel called Ten Little Niggers, and part of Rendell's point in Simisola was to keep most of the trap-pings of the form, varying only the character palette. In Chief Inspector Wexford's rural beat of Kingsmarkham there are few black people, and one of them, the daughter of the local Nigerian doctor, has gone missing.

Fiction with a message often amounts to the writer stopping the plot while char-acters joust slogans. The power of Simisola — the skil-ful script is by Alan Plater, television when Andrew Davies was still in short stories — is that it's always the action that invites the

The body of a young black woman was discovered and DCI Wexford visited the Nigerian GP and his wife to invite them to attempt an identifica-tion. George Baker cleverly made you see in this scene that Wexford prided himself not merely on his delicacy with bad news, but on his cul-tural sensitivity. Here was a cop who had taken his racism awareness course seriously. awareness course serrously.
Cut to the morgue. "That's not
my daughter," said the
father, and the trap had been
sot so well that this viewer at

least suspected him of mis-chief and deceit. But Wexford's error, we soon queasily realised, was a dramatisation of the old phrase of prejudice: they really did all look the same to

him, so he had failed to check the corpse against a photo. The sequence was a little

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masterplece of moral fiction. Even devotees of Brookside (Channel 4) have become worried in the past year by the serial's attitude to what Hollywood calls "back story". or the characters' past lives. Mick, for example, seems to have recovered his scally chirpiness faster than you reasonably might expect after being held hostage in your

flat by an armed stalker. The producer's ears must have been burning, because last night's edition made strenuous attempts at psychological continuity. Following the death of Australian Shane, Jacqui Dixon's fella, from a heroin overdose, his supplier, Jimmy Corkhill, had a serious case of the

"There's something you should know," he told his gormless son-in-law and dep uty pusher, Gary. "This isn't the first time I've killed some-one." He briefly summarised 1994's key plot-lines, when he vegetablised Jacqui's kid brother, Tony, in a smack-fuelled car smash. "Not a single solitary stinking hour doesn't pass," he walled to Gary last night, "that I don't see Tony Dixon's face."

It was a strong line, delivered with credible remorse by Dean Sullivan, but perhaps that double negative was de-liberate, for the problem is that nothing in Jimmy's de-meanour in the past two years suggested that he had seen Tony Dixon's face since the actor's leaving party. Perhaps dramatic amnesia is a necessary convention in scap opera, particularly one with Brookside's present level of incident. It's increasingly no-ticeable that almost every single regular character is now at risk of sudden death, whether from murder, suiide, bulimis, ameobic dysen tary or over-strenuous

The word on the street in Liverpool is that executive producer Phil Redmond is reminding his birelings of their dispensability after a couple of spats with temperamental cast members. Whatever the reason, the various plot-swords hanging over the performers make a nice grim joke of the new dis-play in Bev's shop: "Natural Foods For Healthy Living".

ELENA HARVEY, aged 13, praises a children's drama

Hearts is the trump

BLACK Hearts In Batter-sea is a costume drama on BBCL, which is billed as "rollicking Sunday tea-" viewing. But though 6 million of are watching it, the critics are ignoring it because it's aimed at children, rather than Jane Austen lovers. Shame on them!

The fifth of six episodes will be shown tomorrow at 5.15pm and, in case you've missed out, here is a catch-up guide. Set in the early 19th century, in the fictional reign of James III, Black Hearts in Batersea tells the tale of Lord and Lady Bayswater's baby son Simon (who later turns out to be the hero) being swapped for the baby son of Eustace

Buckle, a fanatical opponent of the king who is deeply in-volved in a plot to overthrow him and put the Hanoverians on the throne. To do this they must first sassinate the Duke of Battersea. Simon gradually be-comes aware of this, and must top the plot before they kill the Duke. But this cannot be

done without the plotters real-

ising his lost identity (which Simon doesn't even know himself) and attempting to "scrob-ble" him! What a life!. It is well cast, with 18-yearold William Mannering as Simon, and 11-year-old Jade

Williams as the diminutive but beguiling Dido. Ronald Pickup plays the avid inventor the Duke of Battersea, and his Duchess, who has continual "fits of the vapours", is portrayed by Celia Imrie. It can be melodramatic at

times — all the baddies look like baddies and all the goodies look like goodies - but it doesn't really matter because when you are trying to follow a dastardly plot you need to see who's who.

Teatime dramas have a very bad image; everyone thinks that they are all the same as Just William. But Black Hearts In Battersea has a very good plot, based on the novel by Joan Aitken (of Wolves Of Willoughby Hall fame) and is very high-quality stuff. Forget the fact that there was no James III, switch on, sit back.

OPERA Samson et Dalila

Covent Garden

condition for the new young Samson and Dalila stars. The Sidney Nolan cloths were brightly lit—as was
David Bintley's refurbished
dance-orgy in the last scene.
Moshinsky's production, tightened up neatly by David Ed-wards, matches the dignity of the Saint-Saëns impressively-wrought score which I have seldom heard sound so appealing. The Covent Garden orches-tra was on tip-top form for Jac-ques Delacôte, who relished both the over-blown Wagnerian languorousness and the hom-

ge to Bach of the virtuous Israelite counterpoint.
The Argentinian tenor Jose

and God save the king!

Cura has the bold physicality and passionate delivery that fit him very well for the central role. He acted well, and was suitably brave and heroic at the top of his voice. Markella Hat-ziano, as Dalila, also had a thrilling top, but the tone of her lower mezzo register, where much of the role lies, was less alluring. And her manner suggested plain homely enthusi-asm much more than the magical wiles or violent national fervour called for. Gregory Yurisich as the High Priest of Dagon sounded suitably bloodcurdling. ☐ At Covent Garden (0171-304 4000)

Tom Sutcliffe



Kiki Dee Almost Naked

"The voice, sweet, rich and couring - this is the kind of thing you should experience first hand" Thus Out Sunday 11 February 1996 Jazz Cafe

The Aix and pains of genius



They shared an idyllic Provençal childhood but their intense friendship ended in bitterness.

boy. Emile was 13 when he went to the College Bourbon in Aix-en-Provence, and in that small, oppre sively enclosed town he was an outsider. His father, who had died four years ear er, was Italian: Emile himself did not become a

French citizen until he was 21. His widowed mother came from the north of France, where he had spent his early years. At the college the posh Provencal boys called him the franciot — Frenchy — because of his Partislan accent. He also had a slight lisp. He wasn't big but he was bright and some-thing of a swot. All in all he was prime bully-fodder. They sent him to Coventry.

There was a slightly older and tougher kid called Paul. also an outsider. He too was of Italian extraction, and he had been born out of wedlock. He did not come from one of the cratic families that made up stuffy Aix society. His father was a rough-tough self-made man who had worked his way up from making hats to found ing the first bank in Aix, and had bought the 45-acre estate of the Jas de Bouffan which in Louis XIV's time had belonge to the Marquis de Villars, the governor of Provence. Emile's family was poor. In the eyes of Aix society Paul's was worse;

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BENTAL

it was *nouveau riche*. Neither as a schoolboy no at any other time in his life did Paul go out of his way to make himself popular. He broke the Coventry ban, chatted with Emile, got into a fight and was beaten up for his pains. The next day Emile thanked Paul by going to his home with a present of a basket of apples. Paul was Cézanne and Emile

The population of Aix-en-Provence in the 19th century was only about 25,000. For its grammar school to have pro-duced two major historical figures is like lightning striking in the same place twic Not only that but it produced them simultaneously, and still more extraordinary was the intensity of their friendship. Books on Zola refer to his schoolboy friend Cézanne, and books on Cezanne refer to his schoolboy friend Zola, as though each was a footnote in the life of the other. There was much more to it than that. The friendship between the two was of David and Jonathan in tensity and (albeit with rever-sals) it was life-long.

Baptistin Baille is a name that would not be remembered today if he hadn't been the third of the "three inseparables", though his role was always a Ringo-ish one, subordinant to Zola and Cézanne. The three of them would go for long walks in the countryside around Aix; they would pic-

TS never fun being a new oboy. Emile was 13 when he little river Arc. It was an Arca dian existence, an ideal of L'Assommoir there is a de-scription of the hellish Paris laundry where Gervaise abours, and there she rame bers being a laundress in Plas sans (Zola's fictional name for Aix): "We used to take the washing to the river (Arc). It smelt better than it does here. It was a lovely place, a spot under the trees, with clear, running water."

> the 19-year-old Cézanne's ear-liest known letter to Zola, written from Aix to Paris. "Do you remember the pine irea which, planted on the bank of the Arc, bowed its shaggy head above the steep slope? In an autobiographical section of L Ocuve. Zola writes "They would spend whole days, stark naked, lying on the burning sand, then diving practically lived in the water

Both for Cézanne and Zola the memory of those days was a touchstone of happiness (as it was for poor Gervaise). It was always a reminder — a reminder that life could be ike this; that life should be like this. Zola tried to recreat it in his riverside house out-side Paris at Medan. Cézanne tried to recreate it in his pictures of bathers (with the addi tion of over-size female nudes. he sheer clumsiness of whom is, I am sura, as much psycho-logical as pictorial).

picnicking they read vora-ciously, mostly Victor Hugo and de Musset. They played music — Zola on clarinet. Cézanne on cornet, and with these instruments serenaded a girl until her parents emptied water jugs on them from an upstairs window. They of "conquering" Paris. Cé-zanne would "astound Paris with an apple". But first they

Europe or its offshore islands tend to see the South, the Midi, Provence as a place of freedom and enlightment. We think of Keats's beaker full of the warm South, or of van Gogh almost blinded by the yellow light and sunflowers of Arles. For Zola and Cézanne, on the other hand, it was a place to get out of. Paris was where it was at, Provence was stifling. But the first thing to get out of was school. They were bright boys. One of them tended to win the writing prizes, the other the ones for drawing. That's right — Cézanne excelled in writing.

Gervaise's memories echo

and sunshine seemed to pro-long their childhood . . ."

As well as swimming and an upstans whitever they thought a lot about girls. They also planned their careers, and their ambitions were Napoleonic. Zola always spoke

had to get there. Those of us from northern

Both, though, had problems passing the bac, the matricula-tion exam. When Cézanne finally passed, his father made him study law, which he lowthed as much as he later hated working in his father's

bank. By then Zola had gone to Paris on his own (his penniand now at the Paris Lycée, a

For both men, the memory of those days together by the river was a touchstone of happiness

new boy again, he was teased once more, this time for being Provençal. His nickname (very funny, very cruel) was Gorgonzola. He had no money, he was alone, he was ill, he was unhappy. He longed for Aix and his friends. One summer holiday in Aix was ar interval between countless letters begging Cézanne to come to Paris so that they can achieve their ambitions. He tells of a dream in which he has written a book which Cézanne has illustrated, and in the dream "our two names

Water babes: a sketch Cézanne sent to Zola to remind him of childhood days by the Arc with their friend Baptistin Baille on the title page and, in this brotherhood of genius, went

parably on to posterity". In his lifetime Cézanne was from Aix. Nowadays his huge reputation is based mostly on the pictures he painted in his studio in Aix or in the surrounding landscape, notably Mont Sainte-Victoire, From the almost inept tumult of his early paintings he worked to and achieved such classic calm that you might imagine him serenely contemplating

the landscape of Provence and hardly budging from it. In fact Cézanne was never serene, he was always turbuseries, he was always turbu-lent and restless. After his first visit to Paris in 1861 there was hardly a year in which half of it was not spent in Paris the 1870s there are nearly four continuous years spent in the north. Even in his last years he took long trips from Aix. As far as I know he never painted a picture in or of Aix itself. His

studios were always outside the town, as were his motifs. Yet wherever he went he took Provence with him (not least in the form of large quar tities of olive oil, an ess ingredient in his favourite soup). Provence was whereve he happened to be at the time. There are paintings done in Chantilly near Paris that could have been done at the Aixois family home, the Jas de Bouffan. The contrary is not the case.

which Zola also didn't leave Joyce never left Dublin. He made only a few visits South, and then for necessary reasons such as burying his mother next to his father in the Aix cemetery, and to avoid the Franco-Prussian war and its aftermath. But the whole of his great literary endeavour grows out of Aix. The massive 20-volume series of novels begins and ends in Aix (Plassans). The best-known novels (such as L'Assommoir, Nana, Germinal, La Bète Humaine) are set in the north but the protagonists are all members of the Rougon-Macquart family which comes from Plas-

whose trunk and roots are firmly in Aix. When Cézanne joined Zola in Paris to study art, he met and introduced to Zola the painters later known as the Impressionists, whom Zola was the first to champion in print. Cezanne also introduced Zola to Alexandrine ("Coco") who became his wife, and when they married he was Zola's best man. Zola dedicated his first real book to Cezanne (and Baille). When Zola became rich and Cézanne's father had halved

his allowance. Emile sent

branches on a family tree

money to Paul and his misress (later wife) and their son

todeed, right into middle age But the relationship was changing. Zola was no longer the one who was protected. He was very famous and very rich, whereas Cézanne was a failure not only in the eyes of the world but also (it becomes

Cézanne cut himself off after Zola published The Masterpiece, with its failed artist who kills himself

increasingly apparent) of Zola. Zola's initial enthusias

and proselytising for the Impressionists turned to disappointment and rejection. Then in 1886, when they were in middle age, Zola
published L'Oeuvre (The Maserpiece). Much of it was autobiographical, especially the early part, in which the painter Claude is clearly Cézanne (as Sandoz is Zola). But in Zola's fictional schema Claude is also a Lantier, and the rules of Zola's novels dictate that any member of the Lantier family is as doomed as front of his unfinished The reasons for Cézanne's reaction to L'Ocurre are more complicated than is usually made out but the unshot was that he acknowledged receipt

a member of the House of

Hardy novel. Surc enough. Claude is a failure in every

way and hangs himself in

of the complimentary copy of the book that Zola sent him and there is no record that they ever communicated again. Cézanne would have old friend, while Zola (who was a kind man) always injuired of mutual friends how

'aul was getting on. There was one thing about which they never disagreed and that was their home town. people," Zola said repeatedly in one form or another, and Cézanne felt the same. Emile that his compatriots were clods and that he despised them all: "At this point a look came over Cézanne's face and he shook his fist at the town of

Aix." Cézanne hated the weather in Aix. His letters rarely fail to mention that the weather is intolerably bot or intolerably cold. From early years, chil-dren in the street had laughed at his unkempt appearance. In his last years, diabetic and sometimes suffering from ver tigo, his stumbling walk was taken for drunkenness and stones were thrown at him. The director of the local

museum, the Musée Granet, declared that while he was alive, no painting by Cezanne would hang there. The man lived till 1921 and he kept his word. At present there are six paintings by Cézanne in the Musée Granet, all on loan from the Musee d'Orsay in Paris. Aix's treatment of Cézanne has always been shameful.

Zola's reasons for hating the Aixois went beyond being bulied at school. His Venetian father was an adventurer who was also a brilliant engineer in an age of such great French engineers as Gustave Eiffel. He was responsible for the conception and creation of the dam above Aix. The town had been notoriously dirty, un-healthy (cholera epidemics) and hot. The water from the Zola dam changed it into a town with clean drinking water and the countless foun-tains which make it so delightful today: Cocteau said that a blind man in Aix would think that the sun was always shining and that it was always

François Zola died of pneumonia before the dam was finished. The company went bust, and the Zola family was

Cézanne, left, laboured in almost total obscurity as Zola's star rose and rose. RICHARD BOSTON tells their story left with nothing. Probably the inexperienced young widow was diddled. The small

Zola family suffered hardship but Emile's abiding griev ance was not on fluxmetal grounds. What he couldn't forget or forgive was the hu miliation to which his mother was subjected. With equal bitterness he resented the lack of recognition given to his father who had so trans formed the town. In 1868 he unleashed on Aix

a polemic the ferocity of which anticipated the J'Accuse letter which sparked the Dreyfus affair. Picking a quarrel with the local paper, the *Memorial d'Aix*, he denounced the town as stingy petty and small-minded. He did not ask for financial compensation for his father's wrongs but for recognition of his achievement. It was an outrage that the Zola Canal had been renamed the Aix Cae was not a road or square in the town named after his father. He won. The Aix Canal became the Zola Canal again, and a new road on the outskirts of the town was named after François Zola.

bit home and the insults were not fence was compounded not only by the Dreyfus case (arch-conservative and anti-Semitic Aix naturally being against) but also in the whole

tenor of the 20 volumes of the Rougon-Macquart series in which the society of Plassans Aix is lampooned. Aix simply hated Zola (and still does). His English translator

Vizetelly wrote in 1898 (four years before Zola's death) that just as the town of Tarascon never forgave Daudet for his Tartarin, so Zola, "who doubtiess counts more enemies than any other literary man of the period, has none bitterer than the worthy citizens of Aix". Zola died of asphyxiation

on September 29, 1902 (misad-venture, manslaughter or murder?) He was buried in Montparnasse cemetery by a crowd about twice the size of the population of Alx. During the Dreyfus affair. Zola had been for a moment the conscience of mankind, said Ana-tole France on behalf of the august body which had always rejected his member ship, as it had Moljere and

When Cezanne's house eeper brought him the news of Zola's death he shouted what can only be translated as 'Fuck off, fuck off! Everyone leave me alone!" and locked himself in his studio.

J'Accuse - the city that shunned its brightest sons

N 1906 a statue of Zola was unveiled in Aix in the presence of his wife Alexandrine and (right at the back) Cézanne. The statue had been left unfinished by another old school friend, Philippe Solari, who had died earlier that year. Mayor Cabasssol, son of Louis-Auguste's partner in the bank of Cézanne & Ca-bassol, talked about Zola's youth and the Jas de Bouffan and how in 1858 Zola had left Cézanne -- "since

become the great modern painter we know": The mayor was followed by Numa Coste, another old school friend who rement

bered "the three inseparables" of those early days:
"We were then at the dawn of life . . . We dreamed of the conquest of Paris...When Zola had preceded the group to Paris he sent his first lit-erary efforts to his old friend Paul Cézanne, at the same time letting all of us share his hopes. We read these letters amidst the hills, in the shade of the oak trees, as one reads communiques of the beginning of a

campaign."

By now the tears were pouring down Cézanne's cheeks. The old painter probably couldn't see much as his friends embraced;

Alexandrine Zola, in front of the bust of Zola made years before by Solari, another old friend who had gone.

Le Memorial d'Aix reported the event in six lines. This is more than it gave to Cézanne when he died later that same year, an event of which (as far as I have been able to discover) the local paper gave no report at all. In 1911 another bust of

Zola was unveiled in Aix. Le Memorial d'Aix protested that nothing justified this monument to an author who had slandered and libelled Aix when the city



had no monuments to such as Vauvenargues, Mignet was a riot.

Right-wing demonstrators greeted the unveiling of the bust with deafening whistles, fighting broke out, the police charged and there was a general free-forall which was only controlled by mounted police backed up by a whole company of the 61st regiment. Twelve members of the proto-fascist Action Fran-

caise were arrested. During the second world war the statue was melted down to provide war material for the Nazis. In the 1950s a duplicate statue was presented to Aix. It is to be ound (with great diff)culty) in the remotest corner of a park on the out-France have streets and squares named after Emile

Zola. In Aix. father and son share (again on the out-skirts) the Boulevard Francois et Emile Zola.

In the current edition of the Green Michelin on Provence, the section on literature mentions Henri Bosco, Alphonse Daudet, Jean Giono, Marcel Pagnol and

Zola is buried in the Panthéon in Paris alongside Voltaire, Rousseau, Victor Hugo, Jean Jaures and Jean Moulin. Cezanne is buried in Aix cemetery in sight of Mont Saint-Victoire, only a few yards from Zola's mother and father.

Peter Mayle. But not Zola.

RICHARD BOSTON, who has been writing for the Guardian on and off for almost 30 years, is working on a book about Cézanne and Zola and their relationship with Aix-en-Provence where he himself spends part of the year. The Cézanne exhibition, the most important survey of the artist's work for nearly 60 years, already seen at the Grand Palats in Paris, opens at the Tate Gallery in London next Friday and runs there until April 28 It includes 90 of Cazanne's paintings and 70 watercolours



Feat of clay . . . a group of Khimara bowis and vases from the 'Period Pottery' collection, made by Mabel Leigh (right) for Shorter and Son in the thirtles

Fired with enthusiasm

ABEL Leigh, who has died aged 81, will be rememart pottery she designed for Shorter and Son during the thirties. Trained at the prestigious Burslem School of Art by the legendary Gordon Forsyth, Mabel went on to work at the Royal Cauldon pottery. There, she completed her training under Jack Price, the pottery designer and socialist, who was to influence her work and life fundamentally.

When Royal Cauldon closed she was offered the position of designer at the Shorter pottery in Stokeon-Trent. Although still only 18, Mabel was given her own studio where she trained four women to decorate her pottery. Her "Period Pottery", based on designs from the Middle Bast. Africa and Central America, reflected the art deco style, and was Shorter's most highly prized ware. It received national acclaim after a 1933 exhibition in the firm's London showrooms.

Her work was marketed as a design contrast and as a consumer alternative to the outrageous "Jazz Age" and "Bizarre" ware designed by Clarice Cliff at Shorter's pottery at

Newport.
Mabel was strong-minded and flercely supportive of the young women pottery workers. She became increasingly dissatisfied with conditions in Shorter's Victorian factory and the restrictions imposed on er artistic development. After two intensely productive years she left to work at the Crown Ducal pottery with Charlotte Rhead.

After the war (when she was in intelligence work), she was employed by Gordon Forsyth to help in the development of the ceramics export market. She last worked at the Royal Win-ton pottery where she spent many happy years before her premature retirement in 1964. With her beloved hus-

band John, Mahel renovated an old school house

a magical Japanese garden as a haven for wildlife, As hand-decorated tiles for H and G Thynne, but she spent much of her retire-ment painting and embroi-dering and tending the in-numerable cats which

doorstep. A charismatic, lovable person, with a tremendous sense of fun and a capacity for seeing beauty and goodness in everything and everyone, Mabel Leigh inspired the affection of in North Wales and created all who met her. Relatives

found their way to her



and friends find the world a bleaker place without her. Today, her work is sought and treasured by an ardent band of collectors.

rene and Gordon Hoperoo Mabel Leigh, potter, born Janu-

ary 5, 1915; died January 22, 1996

Mary Bruce

Dancing on mean streets

has died aged 95, taught street kids of Side and Harlem to dance as well as stars like Marlon Brando, Katherine Dunham, and Dorothy Dandrige. The continuity of authentic or ver-nacular jazz dance — the dance forms integral to jazz depended on unsung heroes and she was one of the last.

Bruce was born of African-American, Irish and Cherokee descent in Mississippi but by 1909 her family had arrived in Chicago. A wealthy lawyer friend of the family funded her ballet school attendance, and by the age of 15 she was teaching. A combination of more friendly financial assistance and a forceful policy of offering free lessons in the South Side resulted in the opening of

er own school. Bruce took what she had learned from ballet and immersed herself in the jazz dance component of early show dance. Her interest was aroused by Lew Leslie's Black pirds, and from then on she tracked down any visiting dancers to Chicago to identify steps and sequences for her teaching while developing her

own brand of "rhythm dance" Her professional perfor-mances developed alongside the teaching, and Duke Elling-ton's assistant director, Andy Razaf, urged her to come to Harlem to work there. When her sister opened a rival dance school just a few doors away she left for New York.

Bruce set up a new studio above the Baby Grand Club on the corner of St Nicholas Avenue and West 125th Street, where she taught for 50 years.

Weekend Birthdays

She scoured the neighbour-hood for pupils but in doing so had to contend with street gangs, prompting her to enrol at Columbia University on psychology and Spanish courses. She soon got the best of "the enemy" — her Satur-day morning classes were packed with boys, all eager to perform in her Starbud troupe. She held annual per-formances at either Carnegie Hall or City Centre when lead-"Bojangles" Robinson and
"Honi" Coles were happy to
guest. Her young dancers also
performed at the Apolto and in special events like Mike Todd's Gay New Orleans Show at the 1939 World Fair. Bruce developed a 100-acre

site two hours upstate from Harlem at Mount Marion, as a summer school but though many honours came her way over the years the business contracted as she grew older and the school site was sold off to pay tax losses. In 1985 she was evicted from her studio by the landlord.

Her legacy can be seen in various film, TV and stage pro ductions but her influence went further than that "It was the great Mary Bruce who first made me proud I was a Negro," recalled her pupil Marie Bryant. Bruce gave her pupils the confidence to take pride in their identity and diverse cultures and so played a sienificant part in ensurine of American culture.

Terry Monaghan

Mary Bruce, dance teacher, born

39; Baroness (Detta) O'Cath-

ain, former director, Barbican Centre, 58; Elaine Padmore, radio announcer, opera singer, director, Royal Danish

Opera, 49; Bobby Simpson, former Australian cricketer,

60; Glen Tetley, ballet chore-ographer, 70; Frankie Vaughan, singer, 68.

Tomorrow's birthdays: Betty

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Another Day

**************** February 3, 1867: Walk with Tennyson) to Brook Bay, ship ashore, the Fannic Lorabee from Bath, large, three masts, good model. There are people on the shore, but T. doesn't seem to mind. We walked to next point and saw a steamer ashore at Atherfield: then turned up to downs and came back by a path slanting along the cliff side, like a frightful dream rather, my head being lightish. T. tells of people who have fallen over, and at one place is a monumental stone to commemorate such an accident. I said (walking close behind him) 'suppose I were to slip and catch hold of you. and we both rolled down and said. 'you'd better go on first.' William Allingham, A Diary. Macmillan. 1907.

Letter

******************** Michael J Smith writes: Eric Briault (obituary, January 20) was not only an enlightened educational administrator. He was equally successful as a London schoolmaster, notably at Latymer Upper School, where he taught geography. Alany boys, of whom I was one, will also remember him for his athletic prowess

in an effort to emulate the cross-country running poss-thic at schools with a rural hinterland. Latymer boys ran 'round the river" around Hammersmith Bridge, Barne and Chiswick Mall, These runs were supervised by Dr. Brittilt, who gave no quarter to those half his age.

But he demonstrated a rare tolerance to the asthmatic, half and fame, and those who had "forgotten-my-kit-sir". who walked instead. We did it fully clothed, setting off earlier than our athletic brethren. The number 9 bus was an presistible temptation, however, and the problem was to avoid being seen by Dr Brigult and other runners Nothing was ever said.



Denise Grey . . . 'she sparkies, she bubbles, she preens'

sound of antiphonal choirs. on methods of cutting. Unde-

Denise Grey

Singer who stole the show

has died aged 99, was a pillar of the French theatre and cinema, an actress whose career embraced every sort of drama and entertainment.

Born near Turin as Edouardine Verthuy, she began her career as a vendeuse, then took to fashion modelling. In the pioneer days of the cinema this was one of the natural routes into screen acting.

She was cast in her first movie role in 1913 (Mademoi selle Etchika), but it was an engagement at the Folies Ber gère in 1915 that launched her. She began as a walk-on in various patriotic tableaux, but when one of the show's singing stars arrived drunk, Denise took her place and gave such a spirited imper-sonation of her that she was given the lead. She starred in the next revue, A Là Parisienne, and after being spotted by the singer/composer

terred, he arranged for his product to be published as

stereo tapes. He travelled widely, ex-

tending his expertise in recording and classical music

to include business adminis-tration and international fi-

nance. Producing impressive records of Boult, Barbirolli

and Scherchen he also dealt

almost simultaneously with

Louis Armstrong, Charles Az

navour and later Elton John. His energy was phenome-

nal, but he never neglected family and friends, and en-

joyed life to the full. In Eng-

Saint-Granier, was given a solo spot at the cabaret La Pied Qui Chante.

Throughout the twenties and thirties Grey played on the stage in Paris and in films including Les Bleus de 'Amour and Adieu, Léonard. But her greatest successes came later in life. After the of the company at the Come-die Française, together with such great figures as Marie Bell, Madeleine Renaud and Jean-Louis Barrault, special ising in roles such as Dorinn in Tartuffe - she claimed it was her ability to speak with an authentic Normandy accent that made her a success She also appeared in one of the most successful French films of the late forties.

ole Au Corps (Devil In The In 1960 Grey played the mother in George And Marga-ret. The critic Jean-Jacques

Claude Autant-Lara's Le Dia-

Gautier wrote, "As for Denise Grey in the dizzy role of the mother, she brings a breath of life, she sparkles, she bubbles,

she preens, she makes one laugh until the tears come." Grey continued acting until 1991 and among her later successes were Harold et Maude and Claude Pinoteau's The Party, in which she was Sophie Marceau's grandmother. She co-starred vith her daughter, Suzanne Grey, and her great-grand-daughter in a revival of Arsenic And Old Lace. Her last play was Robert Lamoureux' La Soupière.

"I love life, I am very happy that God has let me stay awhile on earth," she said in 1991, "I'm going to rest, going to my little seaside house."

Patrick O'Connor

Oscar in 1985.

first marriage.

Denis Stevens

Denise Grey, actress, born September 17, 1896; died Janu ary 13, 1996

into the five channels used in the 1974 film of Tommy. When

moved to Hollywood his

16-Db improvement to 70mm

recorded sound won him an

He brought me in as musi-

cological adviser last year on a hair-raising version of Mes-slah — for which he designed

special equipment — featur-ing the Mormon Tabernacle

choir, his favourite Ebeneze

Prout orchestration and a

He is survived by his wife Myra, their two daughters, and two daughters from his

John Mosely, recording expert and entrepreneur, born March 8, 1933; died October 7, 1995

British conductor and

Friedan, writer and feminist, 5; Russell Hoban, author, 71: Stan Newens, Labour MEP, 86; Dr James McIntosh University as a comforter late 89: Charles Pollard, chief and early, blink awake over the Age of Enlightenment and close lids with Science Foundetion, think of Stuart Hall, 64 today, as our favourite TV presenter. Correctly speaking he's OU Professor of Sociology 76. The Most Rev Derek Worlock, Roman Catholic now there's a period piece of a phrase — but we will switch to any course he guests on. He's a soothing voice — he Oxford, 71. was born in Jamaica and has this easy, powerful delivery;

he's not one of your nasty lit-tle jabbing academic point-makers. Fie's a human presence in those conceptual sets with the interrogators' chairs and emblematic props which the OU will insist on building Once he was editor of the New Left Review, and now he's a survivor of the old left, that vanguard of exam-passers and scholarship-winners (he was a Rhodes Scholar) who left

town, home and family through education. The Janus generation: they took in popular culture instinctively and then crossed the threshold and invented the disciplines which analysed and codified the world from which they came. It's worth waking even at 6.45am to watch him gently deal with some of those later lecturers for whom informa-tion is a negotiable commod-

Today's other birthdays: Gillian Ayres, painter, 66; Shel-ley Berman, comedian, 70; Val Doonican, singer, 67:

Tim Flowers, footballer, 29;

James Michener, novelist.

Richard Ryder, MP. former Government chief whip, 47; Lord Shawcross, QC, 94;

constable, Thames Valley, 51; Archbishop of Liverpool, 76; Dr Sir Christopher Zeeman principal, Hertford College,

Death Notices

ALLAM. Arthor Gorden Ephinetene, TO, FIMILS. Peccetally, following a very short illness, on January 31, 1998, GORDOM, eged 58 years, towing and dearly loved, nusband of MIPIEL, lather of RICHAPD, JENNIFER and CHARLES and grandighter of OSCAR Funers! Service at S. Cufficen's Episcopet Church, Westgerth Avecus, Edinburgh, on Monday Fetruary 5 at 1.30pm to which all triends are invited. Thereafter at Mortonhall Cremptorium Pendlend Crespe at 2.45pm Pamilty Rowers only please.

SSITHERMAND, Jedik, died Mon 20th Janu-ary 1906 at Burnet General Hospitul aged 79 years. Funeral service on Wednesday 7th February 1986, 11.00 at Goldens Green Commiscontin

In Memoriam

Engagements

engagement is announced between a son of Professor and Mrs Malcolm er, and Lucy, elder deughter of Mr fre Richard Kerryon all of Kentheroth

A STATE OF THE STATE OF THE STATE OF Face to Faith

Our new sacred texts

Tomkins

Roger Hutton

OR THE atheist, the humanist, the rationalist, there is a dilening, How ever much we might want an end to religion, we fear creating a society in which there is o moral focus. How, without the divine authority claimed by the established religions, can we go about providing a workable morality for a postreligious world?

The usual dialectic is between science and religion. Scientific rationalism tells us to believe only that for which we have evidence, and can be thanked — or blamed — for unravelling many fundamen-tal tenets of religious belief. Without astronomy, we would still imagine humankind at the centre of God's universe; without carbon dating, we would still read Genesis as Dect.

But while religion has ceded much ground to science in explaining the structure and

John Mosely

OHN MOSELY, who has

died aged 62 in an air-craft accident in the

of stereophonic sound. He be

could solidify our aural im-pression of recorded music

while still at Clifton College and had taken its develop-

ing of music by Thomas

ment some way when we col-laborated in 1957 on a record-

Having written a book about Tomkins I wished to

clarify for listeners the actual

came fascinated by the way it

United States, was a pione

functioning of nature, it retains two citadels which the cientific enterprise has thus far failed to breach. First, the empirical animunition and theoretical firepower needed to establish a definitive expla nation of the origin of the universe continues to elude science, Perhaps, as Buddhists would argue, the ultimate truth can never be described,

only experienced. Second. and more urgently science has demonstrated little capacity to replace the moral dimension of religion — a subject of increasing concern, most recently in education. At its most abstruse, science tells us nothing about how we should lead our lives. The behavioural models it has provided — in Darwinian natural selection, for example — more

'1 .

readily suggest how nature should not be emulated in

Through a sound barrier

which was monaurally im-possible. John achieved a

within the spacious acoustic

of St Bart's, Smithfield, We

stayed up all night editing

tapes which he then took to New York.

Despite the patronising at-

titudes of recording industry colleagues John knew that be had in his hand luggage some-

thing fabulous and far-reach-

ing. He also knew that the

music could not then be issued on disc since no agree ment had then been reached

splendid stereo balance

human societies. It is not surprising, then, that religionists crow about cience's inability to supplant religion. But in a crucial sense, this misses the point. Science and religion are only two of three variables in the equation: the third is art.

While science has progres sively undermined the intellec tual foundations of religion and secular society has evolved, art has replaced its emotional spiritual and social functions. In place of a religious society anchored to monolithic sacred texts, secular society exists in a continuum of great works of literature, music, drama, painting.

sculpture, and documentary. These works make it possible to bridge the gap that unavoidably exists between indi-vidual consciousness to build

up a network of understand-ing, to communicate the experience of being alive. Art codifles the spectrum of human experience in ways which reli glous sacred texts, rooted in time and place, cannot. In particular, it explores the outermost limits of the human

experience — violence, sex, be trayal, altruism, love, hate, the extremes of good and evil— and hence helps to define the parameters of moral society. Art possesses much greater universality than the culture specific sacred texts of traditional religion. It works at all levels, in different ways and to different degrees, from soap opera to Shakespeare, from MTV to Mahler, from Dick

Francis to Dickens. Art also outstrips religion as a source of inspiration. It reveals, by showing us what extraordinary human beings are capable of achieving, that ve can also transcend the banality of the struggle from cradie to grave.

But it would be a mistake to make a religion of art in the same way as atheist communists sought to make a religion of Marxism-Lenghism. That would require unquestioning belief, blind faith, the very irrationality atheists are s ing to uproot and the very thing art is not about. Howfor example, may look like a religious ritual — the symphony as sacred text, the con-cert hall as temple, the conduc

tor as high priest — you do not

Mosely . . . Boult to Satekmo

recording and techical devel-opment for Pye Records and

in the US for Night Technol-

ogies. In Japan, he modified Sansul's four-channel system

have to "have faith" in Beetho ven's Ninth to be moved, inspired, and challenged by it. Indeed, much of the best art requires the opposite of faith. It encourages scapticism in an effort to promote debate, the starting point in the search for a better way. It makes no false promises of an afterlife, of ultinate meaning in the universe, of moral absolutism. It just presents us with choices. And so the process of con-structively replacing religion of providing a moral focus to society without divine author ity, goes on. Even as the rise of izious fundamentalism in the developed and developing worlds has forced secularists to take stock and fear for the

future, the moral framework for the post-religious world has continued to develop. The new sacred texts, as im-perfect and as rich as humanity itself, are in place. We need only recognise them for what

Roger Hutton is working on a book entitled Replacing Religion

Doonesbury









BY GARRY TRUDEAU

Paying the price for making it to a ripe old age

Mortgage rates are needlessly high as building societies fall over themselves in the rush to become banks

Home-buyers get raw deal

Richard Thomas

#y Pubruary 31

ROGRESS always comes with a price-tag, and the cost of a longer life is the increased risk of developing a long-term illness. Government actuaries estimate that one in six people will need nursing care in their old age but only a tiny minority of the population has taken out any

insurance against such costs. As a result, a growing number of retired people are being forced to sell their homes in order to meet care buis. This has caused huge resentment among those who expected the state to pick up the tab. Politicians of all parties are thereorder to meet care bills. This fore casting around for an answer which does not break

The latest idea, in a paper from the Institute for Public Policy Research (IPPR) early this week, could just be it. The IPPR advocates Partial Equity Release Insurance Schemes (PERIs), which would allow people approaching retirement to pledge part of the value of their property as an insurance payment against

unforeseen care costs. The report says that a typi-£60,000 would need to promise about 30 per cent to the in-

The advantage of this approach is threefold. First, it recognises that selling insurance to young people — who assume that they will be in rude health until the day they die — is virtually impossible. Far better to target those for

imminent. Secondly, the person buying the insurance does not have to pay for the policy until after death, which, to ne extent, overcomes the barrier of high cost.

Last but not least, the scheme means that even after the insurance company has taken its share, there will be a

egacy. Tony Solomon, marketing manager of Eagle Star, the big-gest provider of "crisis care" policies for those who are al-ready ill, said: "It is a superb idea, which should have tre-mendous appeal." Munich Reassurance has

recently conducted a survey of public opinion towards long-term care which demonstrates the potential popularity of these schemes. Respondents in their 60s were vehemently opposed to paying expensive monthly premiums and the vast majority were also uninterested in paying a lump sum up front. But almost half said

they would be interested in partial equity release. PERIs might well not take off without some risk-sharing between the private and public sectors. One proposal is to pay for any care incurred after the first three years. This would sharply reduce the cost



Savings rates on a slippery slope

Cashpoints

THE recent cut in base rates has begun to hit bank and building society savings

Abbey National is reducing the rates across the range of its investment accounts by 0.25 per cent. Savers with £10,000 on deposit in its now quaint-sounding High Yield Bond will get 5.15 per cent before tax and 3.86 per cent

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net, rising on a sliding scale to return 6 per cent gross (4.5 per cent net) on balances of at least £200,000.

Savers will have to deposit at least £25,000 to see a real return on their investment. On this amount, the account pays 4.65 per cent gross, which works out at 3.49 per cent after tax. This is at a

has set up a new 90-day notice account paying 3.07 per cent net (4.1 per cent gross) on a minimum deposit of £1,000, rising to 5.4 per cent net (7.2 per cent gross) on invest-ments of at least £100,000.

■DIRECT Line, the Royal Bank of Scotland's armchair banking offshoot, is offering returns of 4.6 per cent gross (3.45 per cent net) on a mini-mum opening deposit of £1,000. Investments of at least £10,000 earn 5.6 per cent gross (4.2 per cent net). Savings of £25,000 or more will return 6 per cent gross (4.5 per cent

MATIONAL Counties
Building Society, based in
Epsom, has launched its own
Visa credit card, with an introductory interest rate of APR 14.9 which goes up to APR 18.9 from July 23, 1996. There is no yearly fee and card-holders have up to 8 weeks' interest-free credit on

Net rates on its investment account now start from 2.4 per cent (3.2 per cent gross) on a minimum deposit of

time when inflation is run-

ning at 3.2 per cent a year. The Alliance & Leicester



Housebound . . . Nikki Gregory was threatened despite DSS help

Agony of uncertainty adds to misery of repossession

IKKI Gregory has lived on invalidity benefit since her work counselling people with drug problems led her to the verge of a nervous breakdown nearly three

years ago.
Her health problems were compounded by an earlier bout of recurring malaria. But despite the receipt of Government support to meet her mortgage repay-ments she has experienced continuing problems with her mortgage lender, the Cheltenham & Gloucester, which has threatened

repossession. A former Turning Point
Worker, Nikki, aged 30, of
Birmingham, said arrears
built up during her initial
period of sickness, when
the Government met only haif the repayments on her £30,000 loan. But they were exacerbated by the C&G's

tem, which has a 18-month annual payment schedule. The bank demanded 12 monthly payments and refused to accept the DSS's assurances that the shortfall would be made good at the end of the year. Ms Gregory explains: "I

1 have been

honest and up-front as they tell you, but it got me nowhere'

have been honest and upfront with the bank, just like they tell you to be, but it has got me nowhere. In-stead, I have been subjected to all kinds of stress, when I was powerless to do anything about it. "I have received umpteen

mixed messages from the

staff telling me one minute that I would soon be facing repossession — the next minute assuring me it

would all be sorted out." The arrears on her £30,000 mortgage have bal-looned to £6,000, leaving her with a total debt of 236,000 secured against a property which cost 245,500 at the peak of the house price boom.

Ms Gregory bopes to get back to work soon, but is afraid she could find herself in an even worse position if a new job fails to work out. She says: "I was working at least 60 hours a week as a counsellor and the work was so gruelling I just burned out. I have to make sure I am really strong be-fore I return — but my big fear is that, following the changes to the mortgage safety net, if a new job didn't work out I would lose

the state support for my mortgage. Then I would def-

initely lose my home."

HIS week's figures from the Council of Mortgage Lenders, which show that nearly 1,000 families have their homes repossessed each week, demonstrate how high

house prices are still taking their toll on home-owners.
But not on building socie ies, it seems. The Alliance & Leicester this week announced plans to sell the soci-ety for up to \$3 billion, and

nortgage rates and falling

give savers and borrowers free shares of around £750. This will hardly be welcom news in the 150,000 homes which were dragged into neg ative equity for the first time last year, pushing the total of families in this unhappy post-

They will greet with dismay the views of stockbroking and lyst Rob Thomas, who beieves some of their problems could have been ameliorated if building societies had not overcharged customers dur-ing the housing market reces-sion in order to make three times more profits than they needed. He claims they could have cut mortgage rates by as nuch as 1 per cent. Had they done so, arrears and repos ions would now be much

Mr Thomas claims that the pending sales of the Halifax and Woolwich would not have been possible had societies not been overcharging their cus-tomers for the past three

With the Alliance & Leicester, Britain's fourth biggest building society, now following the Halifax and the Woolwich in abandoning mutuality to become banks, he believes that remaining socities will have to use their profits to give their custom a better deal if they are to

Alliance & Leicester savers with an open account on December 31 will receive free shares provided they have at least £100 in their accounts at least 56 days before the voting date, towards the end of this year. In this, the society is being more lenient than the Woolwich, which required savers to have at least £100 in

Building society bonanzas

Abbey National converts to bank. Members awarded 100 free shares worth 130p each. Lloyds Bank announces takeover of Cheltenham &

Halitax & Leeds announce merger and conversion to bank status. Expected pay-out of £600 tree shares Additional pay-outs for biggor savers. Flotation planned early 1997.

Abbey National announces takeover of National & Provincial Building Society. N&P members to get £500 free Abbey shares Bigger savers to get added

Qualifying Cheltonham & Gloucester members receive an average £2,200 čash bonus following Lloyds takeover. Woolwich announces conversion to bank status

Borrowers and savers to receive £700 free shares Alliance & Leicester announces conversion to bank

status. Members to receive £750 free shares early 1997, when it ' beats the Woolwich to the

their accounts on the last day of 1995 to qualify. But Girobank savers and depositors will not qualify.

Rather belatedly, the remaining societies which do not wish to become banks are moving to redress the posiexecutive of the Nationwide. now the only major society to remain committed to mutuality, admits: "Perhaps, of late, we have taken loyalty for granted and now it's time to prove what everyone already

Societies will have to use profits to give customers a better deal if they are to survive

knows — that building societles give customers a better deal and will always be cheaper in the long run than banks."

Within the next few weeks the Nationwide will introduce a loyalty package which could involve giving £150 million back to its customers through ower mortgage rates as well as higher savings rates. Bri-tannia Building Society has said it will introduce a similar ackage in the spring. Bradford & Bingley will on March 1 begin a scheme in

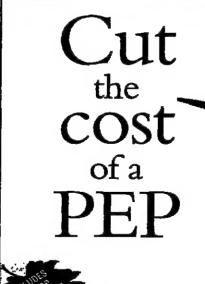
which it will give £50 million profit back to its members. Savings rates, it says, will remain a quarter per cent higher than rival societies and borrowers will benefit from a standard variable

mortgage rate of 7.24 per cent tion has warned savers that if building societies disappear interest rates for savers will fall. A report published this week claimed that smaller mut**uals** have paid better rates of returns on their savings. The Which" report predicted that investors in building societes-turned-banks would see their savings rates fall.

In a bid to promote the benefits of mutuality, the Northern Rock this week scrapped its infamous early redemption penalties following com-plaints by borrowers. They were angry at being subjected to penalties — which had not been agreed at the outset — of two months' interest if they paid off their mortgage in the first seven years. Elsewhere, the Halifax is for the first time to pay fees to brokers.

Competition in the mortgages market remains intense. The Nationwide cut its per cent. Borrowers can flx at 4.99 per cent for two years, 6.24 per cent for three years and 7.39 per cent for five years. Coventry Building Society is offering a two-year rate fixed at 3.95 per cent or a rate of 6.7 per cent fixed for four years

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SCOTTISH WIDOWS

Caught by the companies with an urge to demerge

lan Wylie

ANSON may be the latest in a line of conglomerates to follow the demerging fashion, but the trend has the hop as Pep investors con-sider the tax implications of

'demerged" shares. When Hanson demerges, shareholders will receive shares in three separate companies specialising in chemi-cals, energy and tobacco, while retaining shares in Hanson. which will concentrate on construction. Shares in the chemi-cal group are likely to be listed on the New York stock market

Aside from any share price implications, the demerger throws up a number of compli cations for investors who hold Hanson shares within a Pep, particularly those with single company Peps. On top of the £6,000 general Pep tax allow-ance, a tax-free Pep can also be wrapped around a further £3,000 invested in the shares of one company.

If shareholders approve the

spin-offs, Pep investors are likely to have to choose which share they wish to hold as their single company share. Since investors are not permit-

ted to hold US stocks within a Pep, Hanson investors will certainly have to begin by removing the chemical group shares first. If the shares are sold, investors must reinvest the proceeds in their single company share within 42 days or risk losing their tax relief. Alternatively, investors may want to retain the US shares outside the Pep, but they would forfeit a proportion of their Pep tax allowance as a result.

With regard to the remain-ing three shares, Pep investors will probably have to choose one to be their single company Pep share, off-load the others and reinvest the proceeds in their chosen share within the 42-day limit. However, the Inland Revenue says the Pep status of shares will depend on how Hanson constructs the relationship between the four companies after they are demerged. A spokesman for the Inland Revenue admits it is entering "uncharted waters" on the implications of demergers.

When ICI hived off Zeneca in the summer of 1993, investors were allowed to hold both shares within the same single company Pep. However, the In-land Revenue is stressing that this should not be taken as a

A Hanson spokesman said the company was holding dis-cussions with the Inland Reve nue to iron out Pep details by the end of the summer, when the first demerger is likely to take place. Hanson shares have been

traded heavily in recent months, prompted by specula-tion that the 74-year-old Lord Hanson was likely to take steps to hait the conglome ate's decline before he retires as chairman next year. According to Chase de Vere, £1,000 invested in Hanson shares two years ago with gross income reinvested would now be worth just £846 - a loss of 8 per cent which places Han-son 92nd in the league table of

FT-SE 100 shares. Yet Hanson shares have proved popular with investors following the "O'Higgins prin-ciple" —a theory devised by an

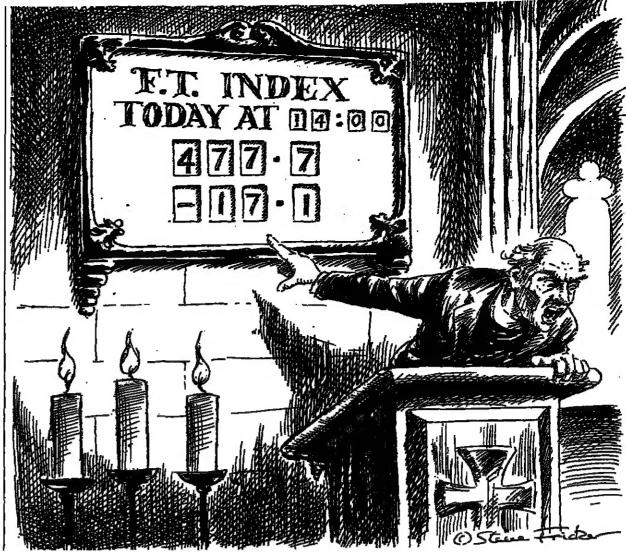
claims to have found a mechanism for choosing shares which out-performs the market consistently. Pep managers who follow the theory choose blue-chip shares which are high-yielding, but low-priced. Around 8,000 investors hold

Hanson shares in single com-pany Peps as part of the John-son Fry Hy1 Pep plan which uses the O'Higgins principle. Johnson Fry employs an auto-matic share selection system which picks out the 10 FT-30 shares with the highest dividend yield, then selects the share with the second-lowest price. The share is held for a vear and then the selection process is automatically repeated. According to John-son Fry, the Hy1 system would have out-performed the FT All-Share index by an average of

For the past two months, Hanson has been the Hyl selected share. Johnson Fry's Alastair Altham says HY1 Pep managers are likely to sell Hanson shares when the de merger takes place and replace them with the next share on

16.5 per cent per year over the

past 25 years.



Stockbrokers tell poor churches: 'Now let us pay'

The Guardian Saturday February 3 1996

HURCH of England parishes strapped for cash have found a saviour in the Share Centre tockbroking firm.

The Share Service for Christians will offer com-petitive dealing rates and rrange a donation of 30 per cent of the commission charged to the parish of an investor's choice.

The broker charges 1.3 per cent of the value of the bargain subject to a mini-mum fee of £15, of which the nominated parish will get

On share trades worth £5,000, the broker's commission works out at £65 with the chosen parish receiving £19.50.

There is a facility to amalgamate family shareoldings into a single trade at £2.50 per person plus normal dealing charges.

going field-tests in the Oxford area, and chief ex-ecutive Gavin Oldham says the Share Centre is willing to extend the new dealing ervice to Christians of all denominations around the

The broker also offers a Pricewish service which nables investors to specify the maximum price they

are prepared to pay for shares when buying, and the minimum price they are prepared to accept when selling. Charges for putting the deal on hold to get the pre-set price vary. There is no fee for the first month, thereafter it will cost £2.50 a month for the

next three months. Share-owning Christians are urged to re-evaluate their portfolios to check if they might unwittingly be holding shares in companies that violate the tenets of their faith.

For instance, people with shares in oil giant Shell who are disenchanted with that firm's activities in Nigeria may want to swap their holding through the Share Centre for a stake in another company, boosting their local church funds in the process.

Church members in

volved in investment clubs could also use the Share or sell shares for the bene fit of their parish finances But remember that the broker offers an execution only service whereby it acts on investor instruc-tions and does not give advice on which shares to buy

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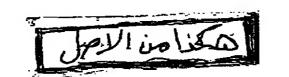
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Davos Notebook

BT attacks Oftel's figures

Nicholas Banniste

Technology Editor

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Section 2

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RITISH Telecom warned yesterday that up to half its profits could be wiped out by an in correct calculation in Offel's proposals for the next price

The group, which earned pre-tax profits of \$2.6 billion last year, said the building of a national information superhighway and the construction of a more intelligent network

could be at risk.
It warned that this lack of investment would not only hit telecom jobs but spread to industry generally.

'is once

EMU

and

only

effort'

LARRY ELLIOTT

in Davos on

tough talking

by Bundesbank

UNDESBANK presi-

Europe of the failure of a single currency. He said

there was only one chanc

to get monetary union right. Underlining his opposi-

tion to any dilution in the

that keeping to the original

tongh Maastricht conver

"European monetary

union must be a success.

Mr Tietmeyer said. "We

follow a trial-and-error

only have one shot. We can't

"RMU must be a success

from the beginning and a

it will not be a convincing

be very much harmed. It

would be a danger for Europe and that's why I'm

He was taking part in a discussion at the World Eco-

Claude Trichet, governor of the Bank of France, and

nomic Forum with Jean-

so tough about the

conditions"

solution and Europe would

gence criteria, he stress

plan was crucial.

dent Hans Tietmeyer gave a stark warning

BT claimed that the esti-mate by the regulator, Oftel, of the group's cost of capital, at between 9 and 13 per cent, was far too low as a result of incorrect tax computations and in-sufficient allowance for increasing risks. It insisted that the correct figure was be-

tween 16 and 18 per cent.
Peter McCarthy Ward, the
executive heading BT's price
review team, said that the Oftel figure, if implemented, would result in "a near-halving of the return for the

company". John Butler, BT's director of regulatory affairs, said: The telecom industry is one of the drivers for a country to maintain a competitive econo my." The need for effective

modern telecommunications had been accepted in the United States, Japan and the European Union. BT's warnings came in its

official response to Oftel consultative documents on the next price review and on special measures to outlaw anti-competitive behaviour.
On many of the other issues

raised by Offel, BT has adopted a less bellicose atti-tude than in the past. It has told the regulator that increased competitition in the industry in the coming years will enable him to lift the price restraints on BT earlier than originally intended.

The group believes that vir-tually all price controls could be lifted by the end of the cen-

tury. Mr McCarthy-Ward said price restrictions on national calls and private circuits should go in 1997, and on inte national calls and private ased networks in 1998, when the European market would be open to full competition.

Controls on local calls, should be lifted from the year However, BT accepts that

price controls on delivering calls over its local network will probably have to continue for the foreseeable future, and that the regulator should have the right to continue with con-trols in any particular area if a competitive market had failed to emerge by the

The group insisted never-theless that Oftel's plans to include a catch-all clause in its licence outlawing anti-competitive behaviour would need an appeal process.
It is suggesting that Don
Cruickshank, the director-

general of Oftel, should be allowed to order an immedia halt to anything which he regarded as anti-competitive, but the company should have the right to ask for an indepen dent review of that decision An Oftel spokesman said

the tax element of the rate-of-return calculation was complex and that it would look carefully at BT's submission However, Oftel's figures had been adjusted to take account of the risk factor created by Foreteinge Paupteinge

the increasingly competitive environment. On anti-compet itive behaviour, he said Mr ered acts of omission as well

is commission. For example, the regulator believed that BT's failure to introduce number portability was anti-competitive. It had taken him four years ınd a Monopolies Comi

start offering number portability. BT executives said yesterday that the whole anti-com-petitive issue could be resolved without negotiations with Offel if the Government pushed on with its commit-ment to implement European competition law.

sion investigation to get BT to

Infantry loses out in battle of dole



Larry Elliott

OR as long as anyone can remember, Switzerland has been a haven for those on the run; a mountain retreat for prisoners of war or deserters fleeing from Euro-pean conflicts while life has gone on untouched and un-troubled in the high Alps.

As such, it's appropriate that the world's business and political elite find time once a year to convene in Dayos to suck in plentiful quantities of unpolluted air, ski a little and contemplate the state of the global economy.

Many of them could do with break. The outlook is not ooking that wonderful, although you would be hard pressed to find a central banker or politician who would admit as much. It's as if the first world war generals had slipped away from the Western Front to spend some time reassessing their strategy only to conclude that what was required was an increase in conscription and a couple of extra battalions.

For like the masterminds of the Somme and Verdun, the unemployed and the poor are seen as the unfortunate casualties of a war of attrition that will in the end ensure the triumph of global free market capitalism and produce jobs and prosperity for everyone.
Indeed, to the extent that ca

sualties are proving rather higher than those directing operations from behind the lines have anticipated, it's the fault of the poor bloody infan-try, not the high command. It's not that the strategy is wrong, it's that the men can't spell or add up, that they are having their strength sapped by benefits or that they are malingering behind the fortifications thrown up by overpowerful trade unions. Consider this, for example,

from Field Marshal Jean-Claude Trichet, governor of the Bank of France. "Policy in France", he thundered, "is aimed at improving stability, and is paying off". Paying off? Of course. Forget the 11.5 per cent unemplovment rate in France, just think about the way those long-term bond rates are coming down.

And how about the idea that there might be an alternative to slogging through the mud to secure a mile of No Man's Land some 1990s economic equivalent of the tank to transform military tactics. No such luck. We have to beware of being fashion groupies, said Mr Tri-chet, and must not be deviated from the pursuit of monetary stability and fiscal prudence.

ENERAL Hans Tiet-meyer also had few words of comfort for Europe's unemployed. There is no panacea, merely the need to overcome rigidities, aim for greater labour market flexi-bility, reform welfare states and remove the plethora of

It would be pleasing to be able to report that a serious challenge is being mounted to this numbing orthodoxy. But there isn't. The theme this year is of sustaining globalisation, and the success of free market capitalism is illustrated by the fact that even the North Koreans are in town. eeking meetings with running dogs of imperialism. The Cubans are in Davos, too, desperately seeking a way of at-tracting foreign investment to heir country following the crippling loss of Soviet finan-cial support.

There are, however, a few straws in the wind — signs that once again it may be left to the Americans to save the Europeans from themselves. For the United States has already been through the labour-market deregulation that Europe's leaders now seem so keen on emulating and many of them don't like what they see

WILLIAM Bennett, George Bush's drugs czar and now a pillar of the new right, opened the conference with a lecture that iwelled on the way in which not only industries but people had been hollowed out by the delfication of market forces. Mr Bennett, bemoaning the lack of religious faith and vir-

tue in modern capitalist soci-eties, dwelled on the American talk shows where people are routinely humiliated in front of prime-time audiences He has come to the conclusion that this baring of souls must be stopped, but has so far had little success. Market forces, you see. It's what the conumer wants.

Yet this is not what the free-marketeers promised. Their model was based on the idea that active government, full employment and the regulaion of capital produced an enfeebled society, crippled by de pendency. The opposite is, of course, true. It was employnent that allowed people to fend for themselves and make their own choices in the 1950s and 1960s, mass unemployment that has left them without the means or the inclination to fend for themselves

From time to time, such heresies found a voice yesterday. but tended to be greeted like a conscientious objector in the backstreets of Manchester in July 1916. Those, like the finance director of a leading UK bank, who wondered why people were begging a living on the streets of New York when there was a desperate need for a decent rail link between Kennedy airport and

Manhatian, were very much in the minority. Larry Summers, the deputy-secretary at the US Treasury tried to warn the Europeans against the risk of cyclical unemployment hardening into suggested that there was scope for a more expansionary macro-economic policy. Yet it was interesting that when Trichet, Tietmeyer and Summers put forward 20 separate suggestions for what the world sconomy might look like in the year 2000, not one of them mentioned unemployment, let

tion on the environment. Ultimately, these two people back to work and the need to safeguard the environment — will be welded together by policy makers with vision. But for now there is no talk of policies designed to foster growth and jobs, no suggestion that there should be active measures to promote greater equality within and between societies, no conception that ultimately unre-

alone the impact of globalisa-

What there is at Dayos is excitement that now emerging market funds have discovered the high yields on offer in Afbefore the world's poorest are

formed global capitalism may

And the mentality of the trenches, where the men are waiting for the whistle to blow and humming "we're here, because we're here because we're here because . . . ".

MoD blamed as Yarrow yard sheds 650 jobs

Simon Beavis Industrial Editor

ELAYS by the Ministry of Defence in placing orders for warships yesterday provoked Yarrow, the Clydeside shipyard owned by GEC, to announce 650 job s and warn that hundreds more jobs in the

under threat. Dismayed unions at the yard, which has a workforce of 3,000, said they were seeking an urgent meeting with Scottish Secretary Michael Forsyth to push for assurances that orders for three Type 28 frigates would be hurried through the MoD.

Yarrow managers warned earlier that further cuts could follow any failure by the yard to secure orders for the ships in a competition with Southampton-based Vosper Thor-

neycroft. If Yarrow does win the contract, there are widespread fears that jobs will be axed at

Vospers. Meanwhile, management and unions at Devonport dockyard in Plymouth are discussing a possible package of temporary lay offs and short time working in an effort to avoid around 400 redundancies.

Labour immediately accused the Government of dithering over the orders and of failing to plan defence procurement. The party's defence

Yves-Thibault de Silguy the European commission

single currency. All three agreed that

with responsibility for the

monetary union would go ahead as planned in 1999,

although it is now acknowl-

edged that only a hard core of countries would be in the

first group. Mr Tletmeyer's opposi-

tion to easing the conver-

gence criteria would effec-tively rule out founder

nembers of the Common

Market such as Italy and

Belgium from joining, but

spokesman John Reid said: "Confusion inside the MoD is whole defence industry Speaking outside the Yarrow yard he said that the neither Yarrow nor Vospers could plan.

"This time around it is mas sive redundancies. If it is not announced within weeks, it could mean closure. Both these firms are under intense pressure and the Government don't seem to understand either the economic or social

Jim Moohan, lead negotiator for the GMB general union, said delays coupled with the Government's refusal to allow defence shippards to diversify had led to the current crisis in the industry.

The Yarrow yard is cur-rently completing work on three frigates for the Royal Navy and two for Malaysia. Murray Easton, Yarrow managing director, said the redundancies were unavoidable as the yard had no work in its order books. And even if the yard were successful in securing orders a sizeable number of the redundancies announced yesterday would go

 British Airways yesterday announced the creation of more than 1,000 jobs at Gatwick airport as part of a move to boost services to Africa.

US rise in unemployed surprises analysts

Mr Tricket said the possi-

bility of a hard core taking

the lead had been envisage

"It is unlikely that all

he first train, but it is im-

portant that the train pro-

ceeds and is perceived as a very good thing for the rest

of Europe." Mr Trichet rejected sug-

gestions from French MP

Pierre Lellouche that the

concerned about the pros-

people of Europe were more

member states will all be on

in the Maastricht treaty.

Mark Tran In New York

HE sharpest rise in the jobless total for nearly six years yesterday added to fears back into recession. The unemployment rate

rose 0.2 per cent to 5.8 per cent in January, its highest level in nearly a year. Wall Street, which had expected a rise in the number of jobs, was caught off-guard by the 210,000

drop, the first in 10 months. The Clinton administration blamed the disappointing fig-ures on the blizzards in January and predicted a rebound

But the gloomy jobs report came just one day after news of a nosedive in manufactur-

The National Association of Purchasing Management said its index of manufacturing activity dropped to 44.2 in January from 46 in December. Historically, if the index falls helow 44.5 it indicates a contraction in the overall economy — not just manufacturing The January figure is the low-est since April 1991. Citing "moderating eco-

nomic expansion", the Fed trimmed short-term interest rates by a quarter-point on Wednesday, bringing the federal funds rate for overnight bank loans to 5.25 per cent. In the light of the latest numbers the Fed is expected to ease monetary policy again, possi-bly when its policy-making body next meets, at the end of

Apple chops top of tree to make way for new chief

Computer maker derails Diesel. Mark Tran reports from New York

Convergence signposts . . . Swiss policeman guards entrance to congress centre where World Economic Forum is meeting

pect for jobs, saying that the French government would possibility of sanctions,

be pursuing the objectives contained in the Maastricht

treaty even without the

Both he and Mr Tiet-

meyer said that the Euro-

work on the details of the

stability pact — the ar-rangement for harmonising the fiscal policies of

countries joining monetary

policy needed to be coherent and there was "the

Mr Trichet said fiscal

prospect of a single currency.

PPLE Computer, the loss-making PC maker, was yesterday poised to oust its long-sufcer, Michael Spindler.

He is expected to be espected executives in California's Silicon Valley. Reports indicated that Gilbert Amelio, who resigned from National Semiconductor yesterday, would also become chairman at Apple, easing out Mike Markkula. who raised capital for the company's founders nearly

20 years ago. Mr Spindler's departure emed inevitable, especially after Apple lost money and market share in the last three months of 1995, traditionally the company's most profitable

Mr Spindler, nicknamed The Diesel for his relentless style, was recruited in 1993 to impose management discipline on a company which prided itself on its maverick culture. While he presided successfully over the launch of | big-chip companies.

a new product line based on the PowerPC microproces-sor, Mr Spindler blundered in his forecasts of demand. Over the past two years.

including fines" against

those governments that

With Germany and

valuations by those

being too lax.

undermined credibility by

France concerned about the prospect of competitive de-

countries staying outside the hard core, Mr Tietmeyer

said it was important for Brussels to come up with ar

He was optimistic about

finding common ground.

Howard Davies, deputy

rangements for the relationship between the

Apple has consistently underestimated demand for its PowerBook and Quadra models and overestimated that for its less popular Discontent with Mr Spindier has led to an outflow of

top Apple executives. Of 45 vice-presidents, 15 have umped ship or were sacked in the past year and more are about to leave. Apple's woes are beginning to scare

Its share of the world market shrank from more than 8.2 per cent a year ago quarter. While the \$11 billion company is not about to disappear, it is slip-ping further behind rivals like Microsoft, even though Apple's Macintosh operating system is judged superior to Windows 95. Mr Amelio's high reputa-

tion rests on his revival of National Semiconductor. When he joined the comness alone could fetch pany in 1991, it had lost war erupts. money in four of the previous five years. Mr Amelio cut the workforce, closed plants and streamlined operations. Now National Semiconductor is considered one of the bealthier

hope of early demerger decision

EMI soars in

PHOTOGRAPH PATRICK AVIOLAT

governor of the Bank of England, said financial in-

highly geared remunera

tion structures, where a

payments-by-results cul

ture could encourage wild

Speaking on regulation in the wake of the Barings col-

lapse, Mr Davies said too many firms had over-com-

plex managements systems

that made supervision diffi-

cult, and an attempt should

be made to consolidate the number of places where

trading took place.

stitutions should be wary of

Lisa Buckingham

EARLY £150 million was added to the market value of Thorn EMI yesterday on speculation that the group would announce details of a multi-billion pound demerge along with its interim profits

The company, whose interests range from music to rentals, had indicated it would not be ready to unveil its demerger plans until the end of March. These will separate its high street and US rental operations from its music busine whose artists include the Bea-

But shares jumped 34p to 1707p yesterday in the hope that the group would bring the leadline forward to February 20, when it will announce half-time figures. The demerged group is expected to be worth more than its current com-bined £7.34 billion. Separate stock market listings are expected to value the EMI music division at £6 billion with the rentals operation worth another £1.8 to £2 billion.

EMI is tipped as an almost immediate takeover target, and analysts suggest this busi £7 billion or more if a bidding

Entertainment groups such as Time Warner, Disney, Dreamworks and Rupert Murdoch's News Corporation are thought to be interested in bidding for EMI, which will be the largest independent music

News in brief

Alitalia is in talks about Brit-ish Airways BA taking a stake

in the Italian carrier, according to an Alitalia union official. BA declined to comment.

A&L limits payout Tessa savers with the Alliance & Leicester will not be entitled to free share payout if they withdrew their money after their account matured. The society says savers who put their money in its follow-on Tessa or took no action when their account matured would benefit when it becomes a bank in mid-1997. Girobank

ccount holders will not benefit from the payout. Crash course

The number of company insolvencies fell last year from 16,728 to 14,536 but the British Chambers of Commerce warned that the ratio of insol-

BA-Alitalia pact vencies to the stock of compa nies did not fall and that the rate of individual bankrupt cies was more than double

PPP prepares float Private medical insurer PPP is paving the way for a stock market flotation within the next three years. The first step, involving the group abandoning its provident status to become a limited company, was being planned, PPP confirmed vesterday Under its current status PPP is run for the benefit of insurance policy holders.

Sainsbury presses on Sainsbury is to continue its January Savers price promotion with the launch on Sunday of February Bonus, main taining special offers on a small range of products including top brands. Tesco is to respond with its first TV advertising campaign for

TOURIST RATES - BANK SELLS Australia 1.96 Austria 15.30

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Norway 9.65 Portugal 228.00

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FinanceGuardian

5.10 departure to uncertainty

Nervous Tories are pushing through rail sale with hope of making it irreversible. **KEITH HARPER reports**

RITISH Rail offithe moment cho-sen by Whitehall mandarins to place three sections of the passenger network in company hands.

Only an enthusiastic posse of hardened anoraks will be up to observe the transformation of Britain's best-loved Aunt Sally institution — other parts of which will don their new, private coats between now and April next year, provided the Government lasts its full term until then.

Having survived the Save our Railways Campaign in the High Court before Christmas, ministers are pressing ahead to thwart an incoming Labour government's chances of renationalising the railways. The Transport Secretary, Sir George Young, is gearing up to privatise many of the emaining 22 passenger fran-

Going, going...

Amount sold 20%

Freight

How far the British Rail privatisation has gone.

31%

own's Britain's rail infra-structure, the sell-off will muddle along piecemeal, without impacting on the pub-lic's conscience. The object is to sell Rail-

ernment has been blowing hot and cold about its privatisation targets. It began boldly, with an assertion that by the end of next month, 51 per cent of the industry would be in private hands. But gradually t has been forced to retreat. Transport department fig-

ures issued last night show that only 26 per cent of the industry has so far been trans ferred. Apart from the three new passenger operating com-panies starting up tomorrow, private enterprise has British Rail's freight business, three rolling stock companies, the Royal Mail, the Royal Train and dozens of other small

Bids are out for the next four franchises — Gatwick Ex-press, interCity East Coast, Midland Main Line and Net-work South Central. But the biggest hurdle has yet to be surmounted. Until the Government has successfully

Railtreck

The government will accept almost

any offer. Turnover: £2,36a

track for a song. It assets were originally valued at £6.5 billion in April 1994 when

its access charges were set. Now the talk is of selling it for a quarter of that or even less, in a grotesque write-down of the business. City and industry sources suggest that the Government would be happy with £1.6 billion, but if with £1.6 billion, but it
£2 billion is secured that will
do very nicely.
This is financial engineering of the highest quality, but
the City is used to selling any-

thing if the price is right. The Government has been looking at the option of bribing the public into buying shares, perhaps by special travel con-cessions. This has not pleased the new train operators. Railtrack's debt, too, will

have to be written off before the flotation. It has already been reduced to 21.2 billion, by creative accounting. And once it goes altogether, the sale will become more attractive— even though Railtrack's finan-cial advisers, SBC Warburg. admit that the scope to "grow the revenue line in the near term" is limited. The sell-off of stations and property it owns is regarded as having the best potential to generate profits.

There is a dispute over which is tomorrow's first train. Stagecoach, the company running South West Trains out of Waterloo to the West Country, has the best claim, with its 5.10am service from Twickenham to Water loo. One-off travellers on this service will be able to obtain hiscuits and tea on the platform.

A spoiling operation has been mounted, inadvertently, by Great Western Trains. The 1.50am Fishguard to Padding ton service will begin in the public sector but will be a bus as far as Cardiff due to dreaded engineering works. Somewhere along the route, Great Western Trains will as sume responsibility, and eight hours later bleary-eye passengers will stagger into Paddington. In the meantime the third new operator, Enter prise Rail, will quietly take over the London to Southend commuter line around 6am. The staff uniforms will be different, but the trains will be

the same, and so will the Tomorrow will be remarkably like any normal day, in fact. The new operators, with

fresh ideas and anxious to please, will try to make their mark with the passengers. They have persuaded the Gov-ernment to advance the hand-over by more than a month, but they will not be able to hide the fact that they are operating a railway suffering under-investment. It will lean on the taxpayer for years to

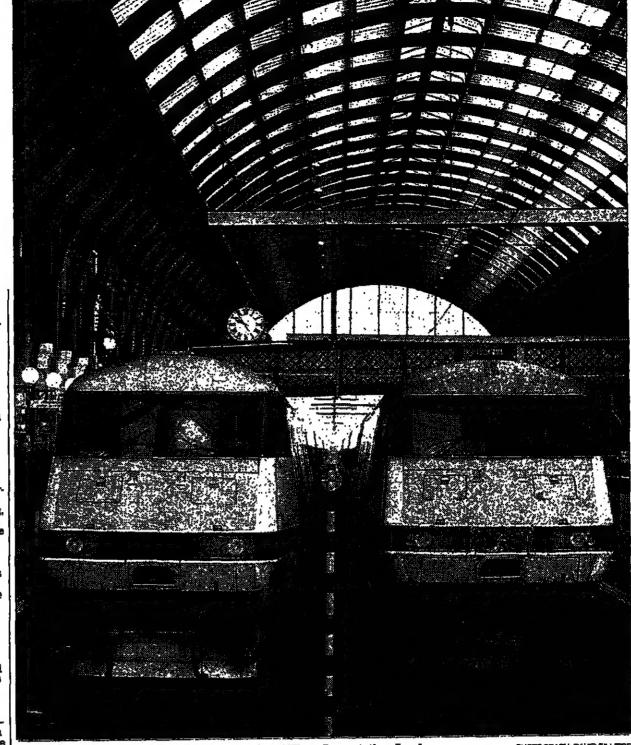
The Government is taking a calculated chance. It knows this privatisation is not popu-lar, but is determined to proceed, as speedily as possible, to spoil an incoming Labour government's chances of returning rail to public owner ship. Until recently, it looked as if its timetable was slipping but further sell-offs of crucial parts of BR's old empire before April next year could queer Labour's pitch. For months, Labour has

been nervous about calling its hand. This has been partly due to frequent changes in the party's transport portfolio, and partly because New Labour has been over-cau-tious about committing itself to spending millions on re-At one stroke, Labour could

undermine the Government's entire privatisation strategy. At its heart is the flotation of At its heart is the flotation of Railtrack, which — after doubts by several ministers — is to go shead at full tilt with a public and international share offer on May.20. To kill off would-be investors, both at home and abroad, Labour need only make a public declaration to Railtrack that it would be re-nationalised. The would be re-nationalised. The Liberal Democrats have alment, but Labour is dithering, largely because of shadow Chancellor Gordon Brown's insistence that Labour would make sure that the industry is regulated.

This week, Labour's deputy leader. John Prescott, and Clare Short, transport spokesman, have been pressing for a more positive approach by the party, but have foundered on Mr Brown's obduracy. They have failed to twist his arm. and were left last night exposing their indecision at a meet-ing of the Rail Study Association in London.

Brian Wilson, Labour's transport spokesman, who has peen seriously at odds with Mr Brown and is becoming concerned at a backlash from the rail unions, was aggressive but revealed nothing new about Labour's tactics. He invited "potential investors" in Railtrack to stay clear of "this high risk, utterly unwanted



Ready for the off...about-to-be-privatised trains at Kings Cross station, London

Cabinet

hr Scott

acrifice

eady

Train chiefs spell out plans

Railtrack, promising only to Keith Harper ments are issued. Some indus try insiders are amazed at WO of the three pew abour's reluctance to seize the opportunity to condemn the flotation and frighten off rail passenger com pany heads unveiled ivestors. It appears that Gortheir strategy this week to don Brown's argument — that it is enough to ensure that a an enthusiastic meeting of the London railway passe ger group. They offered fresh ideas and a better serprivatised Railtrack is adequately regulated — is win-ning out. That is also the vice and were applauded, but with reservations on

cheapest solution. In the meantime, the Government is basking in the advantage created by Labour's uncertainty. It leaves the in-dustry bewildered and the

flotation", and not to fall for Railtrack's black propaganda. But he kept his lip tightly buttoned on Labour's plans for

public cynical. Passengers are not expecting a better service and they will not get one. But they will still have to support the indus

try to the tune of at least £700 million a year from taxes whether it is privatised or not This is a privatisation too far. And the political dogfight does not bode well for its

how far they could deliver

Brian Scott, managing di-rector of Great Western Rail, heads the manage ment buy-out team which has been awarded a sevenyear franchise. It could be extended to 10. His motto is: "Go for growth and empty the M4." He guaranteed trains into Cornwall at their current level, a daily ervice to Carmarthen, and

the Fishguard boat train at least until 1999. There will be a 30-minute service to Cardiff and Brisprise Rail, responsible for

 tol from Paddington, and | the London, Tilbury and an attractive new timetable this summer". A por terage service is being in-

troduced at Paddington. A sleeper service will be maintained to Penzance. end a motorall service to Cornwall was promise The company could divide an eight-carriage train in two, providing more fre-quent services. Employee participation is to be

encouraged.
Mr Scott wants to introduce tilting trains to improve on journey times. The company aims to answer all correspondence within five days, instead of 10, and a new passengers' charter will compensate travellers if they are delayed more than an hour. The number of cycles allowed on a train will be doubled to six.

Chris Kinchin-Smith. managing director of Enter-

Southend line, promised the utter transformation' of this heavily criticised commuter route. He alms to improve punctuality from 82 per cent to 90 per cent from October this year.

There will two new trains after 10 o'clock at night and new information systems. Given the improvements the company is looking for fares should increase by only 0.7 per cent each year.

New rolling stock is to be ordered within a year. which under the privatisation rules gives the com-pany a 15-year contract instead of its current seven. The timetable will not be reduced, and "we will not be putting the boot into our staff'. Mr Kinchen-Smith added: "Our passengers are not interested in ideology. They just want a good ser-vice. This Cinderella railway will get to the ball."

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Age of the virtuous ad



Roger Cowe

IETNAM this week launched a campaign V against what it de-scribes as "social evils and cultural poisons." This catch-all includes prostitution, as it would in most countries. Sensibly, it also covers karaoke but goes on to embrace eambling and consumer goods advertis ing, which many in the West find positively virtuous. The effect is, for a time at least, that hillboards promoting companies such as Sony and Kodak, and European foods, have been painted over, covered up or dismantled. The campaign to preserve Vietnamese cul-ture also requires western names to be subsidiary to their Vietnamese

equivalents. Some cynics have dismissed the campaign as electioneering ahead of the Communist party congress, expected in June. And it

seems unlikely that Vietstop. Alcohol is probably next on the list, although the drinks industry has nam can resist the tide of western commercial and done a good job of trying to prove that a few drinks are cultural imperialism as suc cessfully as the country fought off the military veractually good for you. And then there is toy advertission. But there is clearly something to be said for ing, much criticised by fighting social evils. As the minister of culture, Tran many parents and even frowned upon by some ad Hoan, put it: "We have to fight against immoral But toys themselves are things that may cause nega-tive influences." clearly not a social evil. They have very positive in-fluences on childrens' de-

Few can argue with that, but of course there are different views of immorality and "negative influences". In Britain, as in most western countries, that would tend to be interpreted as il-legal drugs — cocaine, her-oin, Ecstasy, etc. But there is a strong voice in the Euro-pean Union's debates on advertising, arguing that many mainstream aspects of western commerce are immoral and "may cause

negative influences". The first target must be tobacco. Even the most fer vent smokers can bardly claim that there are serious positive influences from smoking. The ministry of health should not find it difficult to explain why tobacco is "immoral" and to warn of this "social evil" as the Vietnamese might describe tobacco if they

weren't so addicted to it.

Tobacco is easy, but it is

not so easy to know where to

showering children with consumption messages. Perhaps the answer is to turn the potency of adver-tising towards social virtues. Unfortunately, however, copywriters never seem at their best when extolling virtuous activities. Witness the slogan

tive influences" by

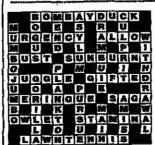
velopment, despite what some might think about

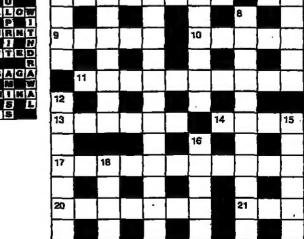
Game Boys and other modern toys. It is advertising it-self that injects the "nega-

reported in Hanoi this week, proclaiming: "Protection against poisonous cultural items is the duty of all society." It doesn't quite have the ring of "It could be you" or even "Come to Marlboro Country".

There is another problem too. Unlike in Vietnam. there are no votes to be gained from campaigning against social evils and cul-

Quick Crossword No. 8039





Across 1 Marine (8) 5 Go ahead - metal - van

9 Dried coconut (5) 10 Feeler (7) 11 Politician — opposed to

change (12) 13 University — shoe (6) 14 Set fire to (6) 17 Russian president (5.7) 20 Detonate (7)

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22 Striped gernstone (4) 23 Swinging weight (8) Down 2 Censure (7)

21 Artiess (5)

1 Staff - club - spice (4) 3 Sinner (12) 4 Scarce (6)

15 introductory -- letter (7) 16 Strict (B) 18 Answer (5) 19 An expression — for part of the school year (4)

12 Mexican hat (8)

6 Boredom (5)

7 Breadth of circle (8) 8 Rectified (12)

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1 Winter